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Slanging match over Labour film

Battle over leak eclipses issues

BY ROBIN OAKLEY AND PHILIP WEBSTER

THE Conservative party admitted last night that it had put the consultant at the centre of the health service dispute in touch with one of the newspaper that disclosed the name of Jennifer Bennett.

The admission by William Waldegrave, the health secretary, came after a day of fervid exchanges between the parties over who had been responsible for leaking the name of the girl, whose case inspired Labour's election broadcast after her lengthy wait for an ear operation.

The apparently trivial affair assumed key significance with both parties desperate to avoid blame for the leak and the subsequent media blitz on the family. Integrity was becoming a crucial issue as the Conservatives sought to make Neil Kinnock's suitability as prime minister a focus of the campaign and Labour hit back after Mr Waldegrave's revelation with accusations of Conservative hypocrisy.

The latest twist in the dispute came as doctors delivered an overwhelming vote of no-confidence in the health service reforms. General practitioners and consultants at the British Medical Association special conference in London voted by large majorities against the spread of fund-holding practices and the setting up of new waves of self-governing trusts.

Both Mr Kinnock and John Major denied early yesterday that their party offi-

Claim and counter	claims in the NHS
row that refuses to	go away 7-11
Rudolf Klein	14
Diary	14
Leading article	15
Letters	15
Business	19
Life and Times	4, 5

as were in any way responsible for leaking the girl's name in the publicity war. At a frantic afternoon press conference on the Tory health record, Mr Waldegrave later confirmed that the Tories had acted as a go-between, putting the girl's consultant in touch with the reporter who had given a clue to the child's identity.

Paddy Ashdown dismissed the continuing dispute last night as showing more about the priorities of the two other parties than anything else. "We should have spent the last 24 hours discussing the real issues of health care instead of listening to puerile claims and counter-claims about who leaves what to whom. Most people in this country will be bewildered and perplexed at this whole miserable charade."

The Conservatives claimed that they had boosted health spending to levels never achieved by Labour governments, while Labour announced they had set up a hotline to take the hundreds of complaints they were receiving about health service delays following their election broadcast. Labour accused the Tories of erecting a smokescreen to obscure their record on the health service.

The newspaper also made plain its information did not come from the Conservatives. Mr Kinnock had participated

sure provoked Labour outrage. Robin Cook, the party's health spokesman, demanded the health secretary's resignation, saying that he had incited a consultant to disclose details about a patient.

Earlier, in a bizarre day which saw journalists being angrily and publicly quizzed by colleagues about their reports, Julie Hall, Mr Kinnock's press secretary, interrupted a Labour press conference in Nottingham to challenge reporters about allegations that she had given a clue to the child's identity.

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The Tories believed, since Mr Kinnock had participated



Hard pressed: Julie Hall, Mr Kinnock's press secretary, giving her side of the story in Nottingham yesterday

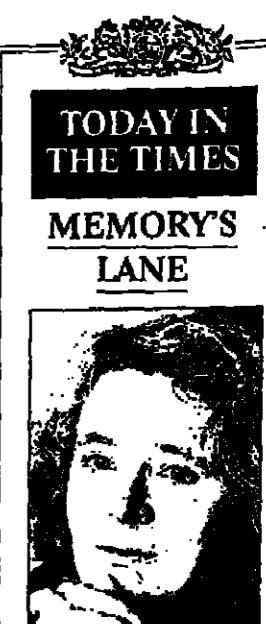
prime minister had no knowledge of the consultant's contacts with Conservative Central Office.

Last night Conservative Central Office denied that they had given the child's name to newspapers. They insisted that they had not known her name until the morning after the broadcast when it appeared in newspapers. It had not been disclosed in a fax sent to them nine days before by the girl's grandfather, a former Tory mayor, alerting them to

suggesting that it was wrong for patients to jump queues for surgery by paying for private treatment. Speaking after his hospital tour, Mr Major said that the Labour health broadcast was "inaccurate unless they are going

Continued on page 18, col 7

Election 92, pages 7-11
An incurable case, page 14
Diary, page 14
Leading article and letters, page 15
Foreigners hit, page 19
L&T section, pages 4 and 5



Angela Carter's life will be celebrated at the Ritzy Cinema, Brixton. Valerie Grove considers other secular memorials

Life & Times, page 1

REMBRANDT'S LONG ROAD



Richard Cork charts the flowering of Rembrandt's art from ostentatious youth to profound old age

Life & Times, page 3

TOUGH PATH TO HEALTH



A surgery is prescribing the local leisure centre for patients it describes as "heart-sink" cases — with surprising success

Life & Times, page 5

Paying in advance

Councils are asking people who pay the community charge by direct debit to make their first payments up to a month earlier this year.

One council estimates that this will save £60,000 a year in interest charges — the equivalent of £1.50 a head

Page 2

Fire eating

Psychologists have evolved a system of treating young arsonists by getting them to start fires and then extinguish them, giving good performers cakes as a reward

Page 3

Takeover win

Redland declared victory in its £613 million takeover battle for Steedman, receiving acceptances in respect of 60 per cent of the company, thereby creating Britain's largest building products group

Page 19

Spanish hope

Spain wants the world to come to Expo in Seville and the Olympics in Barcelona. But there are doubts about the country's future economic performance in the European single market

Pages 27-31

Soccer nomad

Clive Allen was on the move again yesterday from Chelsea to the first division's bottom team, West Ham, completing eight transfers costing a total of £6m in 12 years

Page 38

Births, marriages

Deaths	16,17
Crossword	18
Letters	15
Obituaries	17
Sport	34-38
Weather	18

Arts

Health	5,6
Motoring	7
Concise Crossword	9
Law Report	8
TV & radio	10

13

British Gas to freeze bills of 18m customers

BY DAVID YOUNG

GAS bills of 18 million British domestic consumers are to be frozen from April 1, and prices are likely to remain the same throughout the summer. British Gas is to also introduce a charter promising improvements in the quality of its service, and will compensate customers when it is found lacking.

But Sir James McKinnon, the director-general of Ofgas, the independent watchdog for the industry, said that he was disappointed that a price cut was not being announced on April 1. He said: "All the present indicators are that a price cut should be justified." Sir James said that if overall standards did not improve, then he would review prices to assess whether customers were being overcharged. He would be asking British Gas to justify its "no change" stance.

The price freeze comes after a year in which British Gas has held prices for domestic consumers under the rate of inflation, but also at a time when the company's profits have been criticised following the disclosure that chairman Robert Evans's pay rose 17.6 per cent to £1,252 a week.

British Gas is now under severe pressure to announce an autumn price cut. Only an unexpected increase in the inflation rate — present government predictions are that it will be well under 4 per cent by October — would prevent a reduction in domestic tariffs. Conservative politicians are

will they be subjected to the whims and cavalier attitudes of a monopolist?

The new commitment to customers includes:

□ A £10 compensation for broken appointments unless a day's notice of cancellation is given.

□ "Friendly, clear, simple" replies within five working days to customers' letters.

□ Gas supplies restored within one working day when they are cut off for safety reasons. If not, £20 a day compensation will be paid.

□ The elderly, disabled and the vulnerable will not be left without adequate heating and cooking facilities. Failure to provide such services will result in £10 a day compensation, except when emergencies have hit supply.

□ Telephone calls answered within 30 seconds.

Mr Brown said that although fixed compensation payments were being introduced, the aim would be to "get it right first time".

Ian Powe, the director of the Gas Consumer Council, welcomed the commitment but said: "They are both overdue and underdone. Overdue because electricity has worked to similar standards for nearly two years already.

Underdone because British Gas insists that customers must claim compensation and will not pay the compensation automatically."

Letters, page 15

Libya puts £177m in Lonrho hotel deal

BY OUR BUSINESS STAFF

ROLAND "Tiny" Rowland, chief executive of Lonrho, the international trading conglomerate, personally handled negotiations with the Libyan Arab Foreign Investment Company that involves a cash injection of £177.5 million in exchange for a one-third stake in Metropole Hotels group. Lonrho's annual meeting was told yesterday.

The deal gives the Libyan authorities a direct stake in the British chain that has hotels in London, Brighton, Birmingham and Blackpool, and the right to appoint two of our eight directors to Metropole's board.

Lonrho added that it had been talking with the Libyan authority "for weeks", but declined to identify who initiated the deal, or if Colonel Gadaffi had been directly involved. Lonrho said the deal was a "personal achievement" of Mr Rowland, and that the money had been already received and banked in London.

The cash injection into Metropole will be used for the further development of the group, and to help reduce Metropole's debts. Lonrho has extensive interests throughout Africa, and said that the Libyan connection was commercially minded.

The imprisonment began immediately. Judge Patricia Gifford refused to release the boxer, aged 25, on bail pending

Continued on page 18, col 3

Tyson's knockout, page 12

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Lucky thirteen wins bridge player's heart

BY JOHN YOUNG

SO WHAT'S the big deal? That might be the excusable response of those who are not bridge players on learning that Bill McNaull of Gateshead, Tyne and Wear, had dealt himself a hand consisting of all 13 cards of the hearts suit.

But they might reconsider when they discovered that, according to the *Guinness Book of Records*, the odds against such an event are 158,753,389,999 to one. The book does not record any instance of it happening before.

In contract bridge, as in whist, the 52-card pack is shuffled and dealt between the four players. The players are paired and bid in partnership according to how many "tricks" they think they can win. Bidding continues clockwise until three out of the four players pass. A

successful bid of, say, three spades, means that the player is contracted to make nine tricks (six plus three), with spades as trumps. He plays both from his own hand and that of his partner, whose cards are face up on the table.

A good hand is obviously one which contains an above-average quota of high cards, namely aces, kings and queens. But much depends on distribution, the way the suits are split. A player with seven or eight cards of the same suit is in a strong position, since he can expect to make several extra tricks if he is the highest bidder and that suit is designated as trumps. Nine of the same suit would be remarkable, ten exceptional, eleven a once-in-a-lifetime experience for even a regular player.

A hand containing all 13 hearts is, on the face of it, an automatic



His heart in his hand: Bill McNaull displays his perfect deal

Continued on page 18, col 6

Savings by councils

Direct debit poll tax to be paid early

By DOUGLAS BROOM
LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

MOST of the 18 million people who pay the community charge by direct debit are being asked to pay up to a month earlier this year to save councils millions of pounds.

Most councils have waited until the middle or end of the month before taking instalment payments from bank accounts. This year many are switching to the first of the month to try to keep collection accounts in the black and reduce the need to borrow to meet commitments.

Much of the surcharge added to bills for non-payment has been caused by the cost of borrowing to cover late payments and council treasurers hope that this will be reduced by bringing forward payment dates.

The financial effect on individuals of the change will be fairly modest. The average community charge in England this year will be £27.94, or £27.94 a month, according to a poll tax survey by *The Times*. Although the sums involved are small in compara-

tion to average earnings the potential of the changed payment date to cause irritation has yet to be tested.

Among the first to introduce the change was Conservative-controlled South Buckinghamshire council which said that it will save £60,000 a year in interest charges, equivalent to £1.50 a head off poll tax. "We gave all our direct debit payers three weeks' notice and out of 46,500 charge payers I think we had ten complaints," Barry Preedy, council treasurer, said. "We have to pay over the monthly precept to the county council on the tenth of each month but up to now our direct debit date was the 15th, which meant we had to borrow for five days to cover the cost of the precept."

About half of the 37 million registered charge payers in England pay by direct debit in 15 equal monthly instalments. Ian Ward, assistant finance secretary at the Association of District Councils, said that most could expect to pay earlier this year.

"Part of the reason is that, although this is the final year of the poll tax, it is the first time that bills have gone out on time so councils have the opportunity to ask for payment on the nail," he said. "It also makes sense to avoid borrowing and, providing councils give two clear weeks' notice, they are entitled to collect the first instalment on the day it falls due April 1."

If every council was to make similar savings to those forecast by South Buckinghamshire the total saving to local authorities would be more than £12 million in the full financial year.

In London and the metropolitan areas councils must make monthly payments to police, fire and passenger transport authorities regardless of the amount they have collected in poll tax. Shire districts have to pay monthly precepts to county councils which account for more than 80 per cent of the money the districts raise in poll tax.

• The trade and industry department renewed its attempt for a final judgment at the High Court in London yesterday in its action against Fred Trull, who said people could avoid paying poll tax by buying £1 shares in a Cornish tin mining company.

The scheme was halted when the department obtained injunctions against Mr Trull, aged 67, and others associated with what it said was an illegal enterprise. Receivers were appointed to it and thought to have been invested by the public in Mr Trull's Royal Cornwall Consols United Tin Mines Cost Book Company.

The hearing continues today.

Spelling guide cuts out tricky bits

By MATTHEW D'ANCONA
EDUCATION REPORTER

"TRULSM spelling problems that have bedeviled writing in English for centuries" could soon be a thing of the past, according to an improbable spelling manual launched yesterday.

The Simplified Spelling Society's *Handbook to Cut Spelling* offers a rationalised version of the language. Letters irrelevant to pronunciation, unstressed vowels before l, m, n and r and double consonants are all destined for the linguistic pedestal. No more "tricky 'b'" in debt, or illogical "gh" in daughter.

The technique is claimed to be 10 per cent more concise than traditional spelling, with no loss of clarity. "Since most words are unchanged and few letters substituted," the introduction says, "one has the impression of normal English with a lot of old slips, rather than of a totally new writing system." Time at the word-processor would be saved, public signs would be smaller and consumption of paper would fall, the manual adds.

Cut spelling may bear an alarming resemblance to the streamlined languages of Orwell's 1984, but Christopher Upward, author of the handbook, said that it would improve standards of literacy. "Many other nations achieve higher standards of literacy because their languages use the alphabet properly to represent the sounds of words," he said. "My research shows that university students can spell better in German than in English."

Not everyone accepts that traditional spelling should be swept away. "I would not go so far as to say it was a mutilation of the language, but it is not far off," Anne Barnes, general secretary of the National Association for the Teaching of English said. "No language is written the way it is pronounced and regional accents mean that words are said in many ways." The changes would make the language bland, stripping it, perhaps, of all its glam.



The Yanks are coming: Dame Vera Lynn with Colonel James Goodson, thought to be the first American to join the RAF in the second world war, launching a programme to attract American veterans to Britain to mark the 50th anniversary of the arrival of their troops

Irish women to get abortion information

By EDWARD GORMAN, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

IRISH anti-abortion campaigners yesterday expressed disappointment over government proposals to allow abortion information to be available to women in the republic.

The proposals were part of an amendment to Ireland's anti-abortion protocol to the Maastricht treaty on European political and economic union, designed to bring Ireland into line with EC law.

In London and the metropolitan areas councils must make monthly payments to police, fire and passenger transport authorities regardless of the amount they have collected in poll tax. Shire districts have to pay monthly precepts to county councils which account for more than 80 per cent of the money the districts raise in poll tax.

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• The new amendment tackles this and takes account of a government decision earlier this week to accept that information on abortion services elsewhere in the EC must now be made available.

Padraig Flynn, minister of state, said he was hoping for a consensus and that the opposition would accept the words chosen. It was realistic that "people should have information to do with what is lawful".

information relating to services lawfully available in member states."

The government is hoping the protocol will not be seized upon by anti-abortion campaigners as a reason to campaign against the Maastricht treaty, which will be put to a referendum, probably in June. If the treaty fails in Ireland it will fail in all EC states.

Mary Lucey, of the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children, did not rule out a campaign against the treaty. "It is far too high a price to pay for European integration and European unity, that we have to buy it at the expense of the lives of unborn babies."

Dr Lucey said she was not against the right to travel but believed the wording of the amendment would allow abortion referral in Ireland. "I am certain that the vast majority of the Irish people do not want abortion in our country."

While the constitutional ban on abortion was carried by majority of 2-1 in the 1983 referendum, observers predict that a new campaign against Maastricht would not succeed this time. They point to the likely consensus among the main political parties in support of the government.

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Women ridicule the late dictators

An assertive spirit among discontented secretaries is emerging from a series of popular seminars, Robin Young reports

A THEATRE full of discontented secretaries and personal assistants, all women, had a great time at the Barbican Centre in London yesterday, grumbling about their bosses' inadequacies, indecision and badly timed dictation.

The occasion was a series of seminars arranged with the London Secretary and Office Management Show, and this was the third day of the secretaries' insurgency.

All yesterday's sessions were fully subscribed, and in some the subject was having a second airing in front of another full house. Mary Overton of the Industrial Society expatiated on the right ways to take decisions and solve problems. From the ladies' questions afterwards, it was evident that senior personnel in their places of em-

ployment had yet to grasp the basic principles of those important functions.

preferability of the positive approach. One questioner raised a difficulty about the professional incompetence of men put in charge of dictating machines.

"I know," Miss Overton sympathised. "They do not use the tape to erase their mistakes. They just say: 'Sorry typist, I didn't mean that. Could you take it out?' And then they suddenly say in the middle of some dictation that you've just got round to at five to five: 'By the way, I need this by five tonight'."

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North Sea helicopter crash

Investigators find no fault on helicopter

By KERRY GILL

A PRELIMINARY report into the North Sea helicopter crash in which 11 men died this month has found no mechanical fault that might have caused the accident.

Data from the "black box" recovered from the wreckage had so far shown no "airworthiness abnormality", the Air Accidents Investigation Branch said. The report was published yesterday into the loss of the Super Puma, which was taking oil workers from Shell's Cormorant Alpha platform 100 miles northeast of Shetland to the Safe Supporter "float" 200 yards away in a snowstorm.

Six of the 17 men on board the Bristol flight survived, although the first was not rescued for 30 minutes. There will now be further investigations to discover why the helicopter ditched, and examination of its performance under the prevailing conditions, of procedures taken by the flight crew and of the aircraft's structural integ-

rity, survival aids and search and rescue facilities.

The Super Puma took off at 7.48pm on March 14. Within 15 seconds of its climb it started a progressive descent and crashed two minutes later, according to the report.

A distress message was sent from Cormorant Alpha and at least five surface vessels went to the scene. At the time there were frequent moderate or heavy showers of hail or snow, with visibility in places down to 350 yards and cloud at between 500ft and 800ft. Wind speed was at times 58 knots and waves 36ft.

George Watson, one survivor, later described clinging to the remains of a life raft and watching helplessly as a colleague lost his grip and was washed away. Ian Hooker, the co-pilot, died, and Jonathan Shelborne, the pilot, survived with minor injuries. Ten passengers were killed.

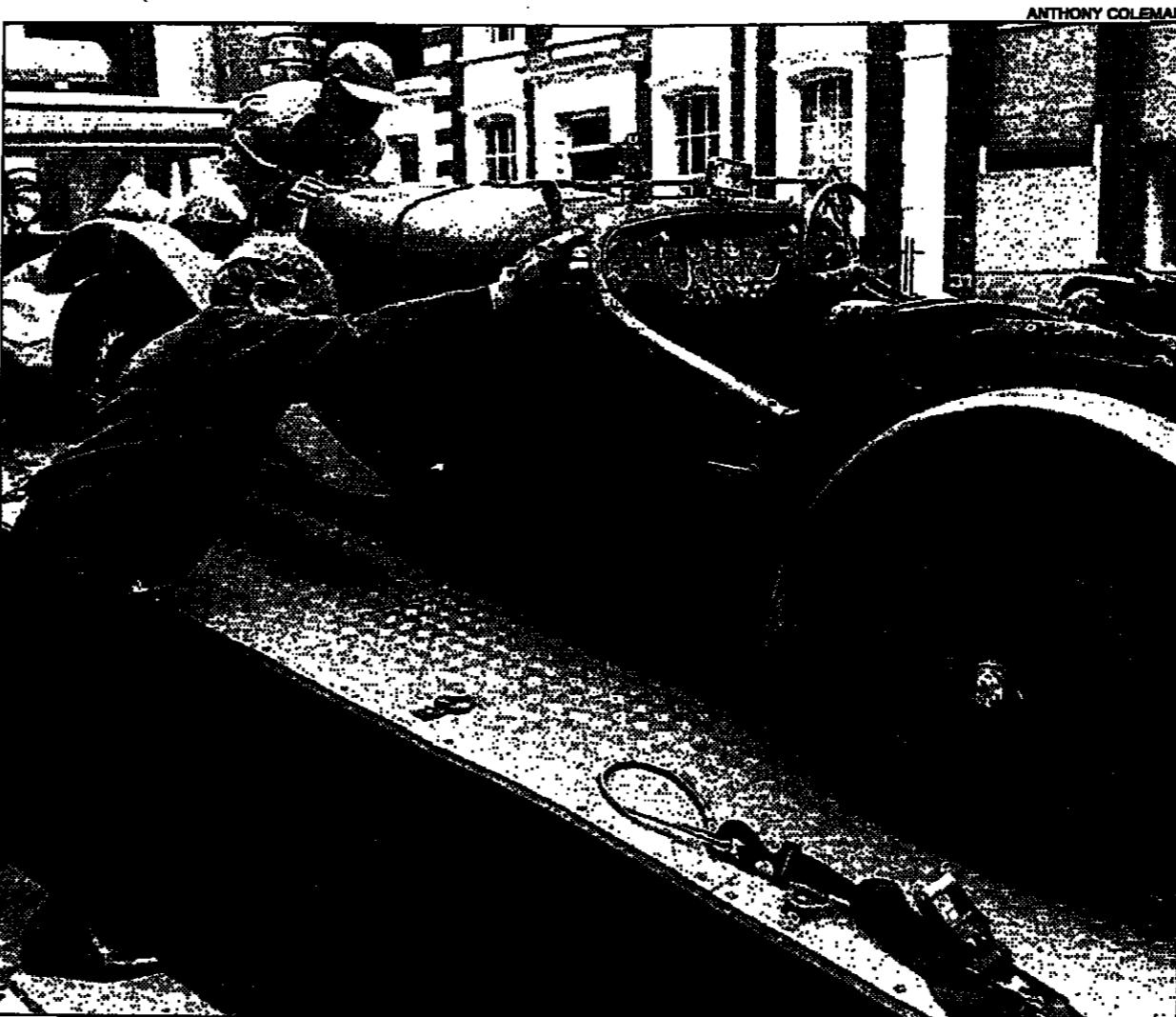
Until then the Super Puma had logged 300,000 flying hours in the Shell oilfield

without a death. At least 80 people have died in helicopters crashes in the North Sea over the past 25 years.

William Gibson, of the Manufacturing, Science and Finance Union, which has 3,000 members offshore, questioned whether the Super Puma should have been allowed to fly in such bad conditions. The float, usually connected to the platform by a bridge, had been moved away because of the storm.

Ronnie McDonald, leader of the Offshore Industry Liaison Committee, another oil workers' union, said: "There is no indication of mechanical failure. We are still convinced the policy of flying in such weather conditions should be reviewed."

Mr McDonald said search and rescue procedures had been inadequate. "The emergency standby vessel was not at hand, the search and rescue helicopter was not immediately available, and there was a lack of co-ordination."



Backing a winner: the 1948 HRG, expected to raise £12,000 at auction, being unloaded outside Sotheby's

A belated trip for classic car

By JOHN SHAW

THE decaying bulk of a classic sports car, found full of twigs and leaves near Inverness, is expected to fetch up to £12,000 when it is auctioned next week.

The 1948 1.5-litre HRG was among four race track veterans on view in Bond Street, central London, yesterday before auction by Sotheby's at RAF Hendon, northwest London.

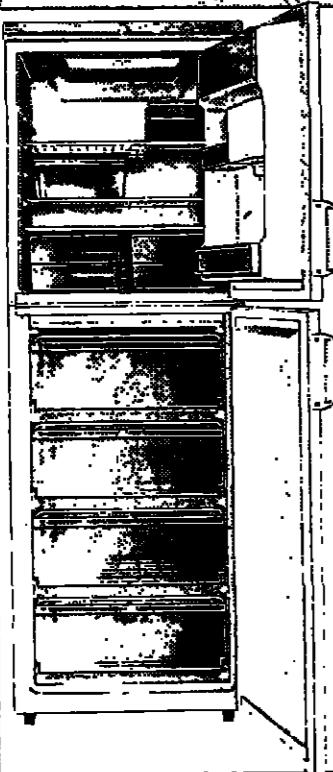
"It looks in a bit of sorry state now but it's in remarkably original condition," Malcolm Barber, head of the firm's car department, said.

About 250 of the HRGs were built and the current example won the 1952 Scottish Rally and came first in its class in the 1953 RAC Rally. It was acquired by its late owner for £350, in 1956 but left under a tarpaulin for many years.

The other vehicles on show were a three-litre Le Mans Bentley, 8, which ran in the 24-hour French Classic in 1926, a 1934 Aston Martin Ulster and a 1955 Sunbeam Alpine works competition car.

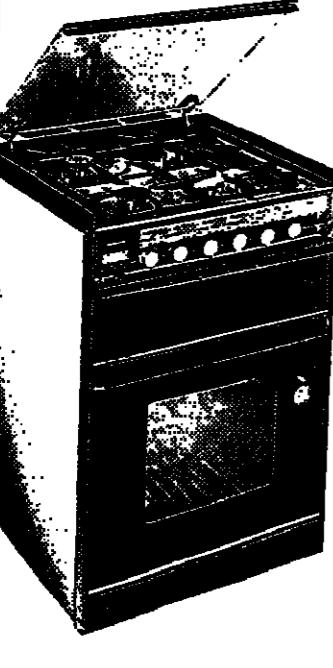
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		Price includes £2 Trade-In	£14.75
		HADEN Aquatique Cordless Jug Kettle was £16.99, previously £20.99*	£15.99
		Price includes £2 Trade-In	£15.99
		TEFAL 59830 Cordless Jug Kettle with gauge	£19.99
		Price includes £2 Trade-In	£19.99
		RUSSELL HOBBS Eternal Beau Cordless Jug Kettle	£21.49
		was £24.99, previously £26.99*	£21.49
		Price includes £2 Trade-In	£21.49
		RUSSELL HOBBS Country Co-ordinate Cordless Traditional Kettle	£24.49
		Price includes £2 Trade-In	£24.49

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Police urged to act over racism

By STEWART TENDER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

INCIDENTS of police racism such as the "offensive humour" of the chief constable of Strathclyde cancel out all the attempts by his colleagues to forge better race relations, the chairman of the Commission for Racial Equality told an international police conference yesterday.

Earlier this week, Leslie Sharp, the chief constable of Strathclyde, was reprimanded by his police authority for telling unacceptable jokes at a cricket club dinner. Michael Day, addressing the equal opportunities conference at the Police National College, Bramshill, Hampshire, said it might take one case of police brutality, racist attitudes, holding back promotion, or offensive humour by a senior police officer "playing on crude racial stereotypes to cancel out the gains of persevering work by forces up and down the country".

He said the "feeling remains among young black men in particular that when it comes to stop and search driving checks, drug enquiries, the police pick on them — act on the stereotypes which seemed to shape that chief constable's racist banter". Those incidents gave a more powerful message to possible recruits than dazzling police literature and displays. The first step must be a clear and comprehensive policy statement accepted by the police authority and the chief constable.

He suggested a programme that would include tailoring job advertisements to encourage recruits from under-represented groups; training to meet entry requirements; a special recruitment unit; and training to help officers from racial groups to achieve promotion to higher ranks.

Fifteen per cent of the population were from ethnic minorities. The police force contained 1 per cent.



Day: criticised officer's "offensive humour"

Road toll lowest since 1948

By MICHAEL DYNES TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

ROAD deaths have fallen to their lowest level since 1948, despite a sevenfold increase in vehicles on the roads, according to provisional figures published yesterday by the transport department.

The number of people killed in road accidents in 1991 fell to 4,520. That was 13 per cent down on the 5,217 deaths in 1990 and the lowest total since 1948 when 4,513 people died.

The number of vehicles on the roads has risen from 3.7 million in 1948 to 24.7 million in 1990.

The decline in road deaths puts the government on target for reducing casualties by one third by the end of the decade. Excluding the 1948 fatality rate, the 1991 figure represents the lowest number of road deaths since statistics were first collected in 1926.

Departmental figures also showed that there were 51,499 serious injuries last year, 15 per cent down on the previous year, while the number of slight injuries fell to 254,676, an 8 per cent drop. The 4,513 fatalities included 2,018 cars drivers, down 15 per cent; 1,485 pedestrians, down 12 per cent and 204 child pedestrians, down 11 per cent. The remainder were made up of motorcyclists, cyclists, and those aged over 60.

The highest number of road deaths in Britain came in 1941 when 9,169 people were killed, most of them as a result of the wartime blackout. The highest peacetime road death toll was in 1966, when 13,3 million vehicles were on the roads and 7,985 people were killed.

Student's bomb jest misfires

A student was surrounded by armed police and strip-searched at Manchester airport after joking to a friend that he had a bomb in his bag.

Shaun Clarke, aged 21, a geology student at Sheffield University, was due to fly to Alicante on a study trip. Britannia Airways barred him from the flight and told him to leave the airport.

The airline said: "This might have been a joke to the person concerned, but we took it seriously. He became abusive and was told he would not be on the flight."

PC charged
Police Constable Steven Chuter, aged 27, has been charged with causing death by dangerous driving, after a crash that killed Mandy Willis, aged 36, in Leamington Spa, Warwickshire.

Sams demand

Michael Sams, aged 5

A belated
trip for
classic car

News and analysis

Tax benefits	8
Union ghosts	10
Power-dressers	11

THE TIMES

ELECTION 92

FRIDAY MARCH 27 1992

MARTIN BEDDALL

All sides deny leaking name

The 48 hours that set election campaign alight

By PHILIP WEBSTER AND ROBIN OAKLEY

TORY Central Office first learnt of the case of Jennifer Bennett from a fax sent by the girl's grandfather nine days before the broadcast based on her hair for surgery was transmitted.

William Waldegrave, the health secretary, said yesterday that the party did not connect the fax with the broadcast until the girl's name was published in the newspapers. He denied that Central Office gave the girl's name to newspapers. "The consultant rang us just before the broadcast went out. We said, 'If you have something you want to say about this matter, you better tell the newspapers'."

The row over who leaked Jennifer's name hijacked both parties' campaigns yesterday.

The story began at 4pm on Tuesday when journalists were invited to 4 Millbank, Labour's headquarters, for a preview of the broadcast.

The film, comparing the treatment of a young girl whose parents could afford a private operation for an ear complaint and one who could

An memorable case 14
Diary 14
Leading article and letters 15
Foreigners hit 19
LET section 4 & 5

not, was highly emotive and journalists felt effective. The opinion of most was that it would cause a row.

Afterwards journalists pressed Jack Cunningham, Labour's campaign chief, for details. He said the film had been prompted by the case of a young girl who lived in the South-East but was not meant to be a documentary. He and the Labour party refused to give the family's name but no more.

Journalists travelling with Neil Kinnock had also been shown the broadcast. Julie Hall, his press secretary, revealed Jennifer's Christian name but no more.

Some time during that afternoon The Independent had contacted Alan Ardouin, Jennifer's consultant, with details of the case. The newspaper refused yesterday to reveal the source, but David Felton, the deputy home editor, denied that the source had been either political party or the family.

At around 6.15 pm on Tuesday the consultant telephoned Central Office. He had been called earlier by The Independent, which had details of the case. He spoke to a junior press officer at Central Office, who suggested that he got in touch with the newspapers. The press officer phoned the Daily Express with the consultant's permission and arranged for the newspaper to speak to him.

At 6.55 pm on Tuesday the broadcast went out on ITV.

At between 7pm and 8pm the consultant rang Labour headquarters to complain about the broadcast. Gez Sagar, Labour's chief press and broadcasting officer, called back. According to Mr Sagar the doctor told him he had been contacted by The Independent with the consultant's permission and arranged for the newspaper to speak to him.

"I condemned without reservation whoever gave this little girl's name to the newspapers," Mr Kinnock said. "We made it clear that the broadcast was a representation of a true story and an all too typical story. None of the very small number of people involved in the broadcast who knew Jenny's identity gave any hint of her name or the identity of any of the people directly involved in her case. To provide the newspapers

girl in the broadcast was one of his patients. They already had the name at that stage. The doctor had checked with his records and confirmed the details of the case.

The doctor told Mr Sagar that he deplored the broadcast, which was not an accurate representation of the facts of the case, but that before giving his reactions to the newspapers he wanted to hear Labour's side. The doctor was not placated by Labour's explanation and said he would talk to the papers, Mr Sagar said.

Later that night the Express appeared with Jennifer's name in the main story.

Wednesday was dominated by the broadcast after the surgeon and Margaret Bennett, Jennifer's mother, complained that it had distorted the circumstances of the case. The surgeon suggested an "administrative error" had been behind the delay in the girl's operation.

On Wednesday afternoon a letter from the consultant to Mr Roberts was released and appeared to support up Labour's charges. The letter, written in February, had said there was insufficient funding for nursing cover, and waiting lists had climbed enormously. Labour accused the Conservatives of trying to erect a smoke screen.

Yesterday began with an early morning press conference in Nottingham. Mr Kinnock criticised the leaking of Jennifer Bennett's name to the media. Throughout the day he insisted that "no one connected with the Labour party in any way at all with the broadcast" had disclosed Jennifer's identity.

Other journalists then rounded on Peter Hitchens, a Daily Express reporter.

At Labour's London news conference at 7.45am yesterday Dr Cunningham had said: "It is increasingly obvious that Chris Patten, the Tory chairman, and Tony Blair, the Labour party leader, had rung Central Office which disclosure of the girl's name placed 'an intolerable burden' on her family."

At 8.15am at the Tory news conference in London, the prime minister accused Lab-

our of consistently "shroud-waving" on the NHS.

Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, insisted on Sky News that Central Office had not leaked the identity of the family to the press. "It was the Daily Express that uncovered it. Newspaper reports saying that Central Office told the Daily Express are not true."

Sir Nicholas Lloyd, editor of the Daily Express, said on ITN at 12.30pm: "It is Labour that gave us the facts."

When a reporter said that his press secretary, Ms Hall, had disclosed Jennifer's first name, Ms Hall took the unprecedented step of going to the platform. Acknowledging that she had used the word "Jennifer" when briefing journalists after showing a preview of the broadcast on Tuesday, she challenged reporters to say how that information had led to the full disclosure of Jennifer Bennett's identity.

Other journalists then

rounded on Peter Hitchens, a Daily Express reporter.

At Labour's London news conference at 7.45am yesterday Dr Cunningham had said: "It is increasingly obvious that Chris Patten, the Tory chairman, and Tony Blair, the Labour party leader, had rung Central Office which disclosure of the girl's name placed 'an intolerable burden' on her family."

During the afternoon Jen-

nifer's grandfather Peter Lee-

Roberts, a lifelong Tory and former mayor of Faversham, disclosed that, having discovered

that Jennifer was being

used in a Labour party elec-

tion broadcast, he had sent a

fax to Central office alerting

them to the broadcast, but

not in any way identifying his

granddaughter. Jennifer's

mother Margaret denied that

Mr Lee-Roberts, her father,

had leaked the girl's name.

Then came the Waldegrave

bombshell. At 4pm he den-

ied emphatically that anybody at

Central Office or in his de-

partment or his adviser Rich-

ard Marsh had revealed the

child's name. But he faced a

battery of questions as he

disclosed that Mr Ardouin

had rung Central Office

which had helped the con-

sultant to get in touch with

the newspaper.

Mr Waldegrave said Chris

Patten, the party chairman,

suggested on Wednesday that

Mr Ardouin

may have first

revealed the girl's name.

John Major said he had

bought his house at Great

Snipeley,

Cambridgeshire,

mainly for its big garden.

He had planted several

of the variety last year and

joked: "They are going to be

pink — you can't get blue

ones."

Lamont upbeat

Norman Lamont, the Chan-

cellor, says that the recession

is nearly beaten. Speaking in

Harlow, Essex, the Tory mar-

ginal, he said the recovery

would start "shortly".

Poverty jibe

Shaun Woodward, the

Tory director of communica-

tions, said last night: "We did

not leak the name to the

newspapers ... The prime

minister knew nothing about

it. That is a categorical

denial."

Sir Nicholas Lloyd said on

Sky: "Let me make it categori-

ally clear, nobody in the

Tory party told us the name of

the girl or the name of the

parents."

Robin Cook called for Mr

Waldegrave's resignation for

"inciting professional mis-

conduct".

Wages councils, page 10

Welsh denial

David Hunt, the Welsh secy,

denied suggestions that a

E2.5 million package for

West Wales was timed to help

Nicholas Bennett, his Welsh

Office minister, who is de-

fending his Pembroke seat.



Hunt for mole dominates day's proceedings

By JILL SHERMAN
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

ny's identity gave any hint of her name or the identity of any of the people directly involved in the case. To provide the newspapers

ated: "I utterly condemn anyone who has disclosed information to enable the identification of Jenny Bennett or her family."

At this point Ms Hall, aged 33, who has been Mr Kinnock's press secretary for two years, astonished those on the platform by stepping forward. Angry and upset by the implication that she had leaked more than the christian name of the child, Ms Hall's said: "If you are aware that on Tuesday afternoon at a Manchester hotel press briefing your press secretary disclosed Jennifer's name, first name, christian name, in an off-the-record briefing with journalists?"

Mr Kinnock said: "That contradicts all of my information." A chorus of "No, no" arose from the assembled press. Minutes later he reiter-

asked: "We were all christened Queenie, but we changed it," was the reply.

The Dave, Dave Nellist, has been the local Labour MP since 1983 but has recently been expelled from his party, ostensibly for refusing to denounce Militant. Fashions among Labour have changed while he has not. Nellist has been beaten by a receding tide, ideological driftwood, but still a log to be reckoned with: no fool and no slouch.

Coventry suits Nellist. It is a hard-bitten city. There is something raw about the place. "People talk about 'hard' and 'soft' votes," Nellist's agent told me. "Well, our hard vote is hard. Very hard." The agent turned to one of his helpers: "Dave, take this man to the Rolls-Royce factory gates, where Dave is."

When Dave and I got there a journal-

ist from the Socialist called Dave, was interviewing Dave. "Why is everyone on the hard left called Dave?" I

asked.

"Because we're all christened Queenie, but we changed it," was the reply.

The Dave, Dave Nellist, has been the local Labour MP since 1983 but has recently been expelled from his party, ostensibly for refusing to denounce Militant. Fashions among Labour have changed while he has not. Nellist has been beaten by a receding tide, ideological driftwood, but still a log to be reckoned with: no fool and no slouch.

Later, Nellist was to address work-

ers at the Hare and Squirrel public

house, but for now he had finished.

The workers began to drift away, and

the rain started.

In the face of an oncoming party

machine stood a real man, a real

candidate — all at odds with history.

Real passion, real argument and a real

campaign: an increasingly rare thing,

these days.

in a Lutyens mansion in Surrey, mate." It was time for his speech to the workers emerging for their lunchbreak. "Come over and hear Dave Nellist!" shouted an assistant through a tiny megaphone, "a workers' MP on a worker's wage!"

Nellist, who has always refused to draw his full MP's salary, looked worn and tired and unusually strained. He exudes an anger which beats its breast to the heavens rather than intimidates the hearer. There is something of the martyr about him, waiting to be stoned. He treated a small crowd of workers in a biting wind to a litany of the woes of Coventry. Snowflakes glanced from his face.

Nellist looked skyward and began to enlarge on the evils of Toryism. The rank grew, the volume swelled. The snow stopped. A burst of pale sun-shine lit his grey face and wispy beard.

Later, Nellist was to address work-

ers at the Hare and Squirrel public

house, but for now he had finished.

The workers began to drift away, and

the rain started.

In the face of an on

Study shows Budget has cost the poor £1 a week since 1979

BY ANATOLE KALETSKY, ECONOMICS EDITOR

AN AVERAGE household has gained £18 a week from changes in Britain's tax and benefit system during the 13 years of Conservative government, but the benefits have been severely skewed towards the better off. According to a report released yesterday by the Institute of Fiscal Studies, the poorest 10 per cent of households have lost an average of £1 weekly as a result of Tory tax and benefit policy, while the top 10 per cent have gained £57 a week.

The institute's figures seemed certain to be welcomed by the Labour party as moral justification for its proposals to raise the tax burden on the better off.

The study showed that the cost of Labour's shadow Budget to the richest 10 per cent of families would be £35 a week. But institute officials said that its long-term assessment could not be directly compared with the analysis of gainers and losers from the

three main parties' 1992-3 budget proposals. The long-term analysis was based on households, rather than families, and was bound to show large gains for most people in work, because its indexation assumptions were based on retail prices, rather than average earnings, which had risen much faster.

The institute study included a detailed analysis of the three main parties' budget proposals, with several politically significant findings:

□ In London, the South-East and the South-West a larger net number of families would gain from the Conservative budget than from Labour's plans. The opposite would be true in the rest of the country.

□ Families with incomes up to £400 a week would gain an average of £3 from Labour's proposals.

The Liberal Democrats' plans would offer the poorest families much more. Families

with less than £49 a week would gain £9 from the Lib Dems, while families on £50 to £99 would gain £5. Under the Tories' families below £100 a week would gain only £1.

□ Despite the big benefits to the very poor, the Liberal plans would be far less expensive to the better off. Families with incomes above £999 would lose £61 a week under the Lib Dems, but £106 under Labour. The Tory budget would cost them £1 a week.

□ The Labour and Liberal budget would both result in average net losses for families with working parents. Under Labour's proposals, more such families would gain than lose, but the losses of the losers would be much higher than the gains of the gainers. Under the Liberal plan more families would lose than gain, but the maximum losses would be much smaller than with Labour.



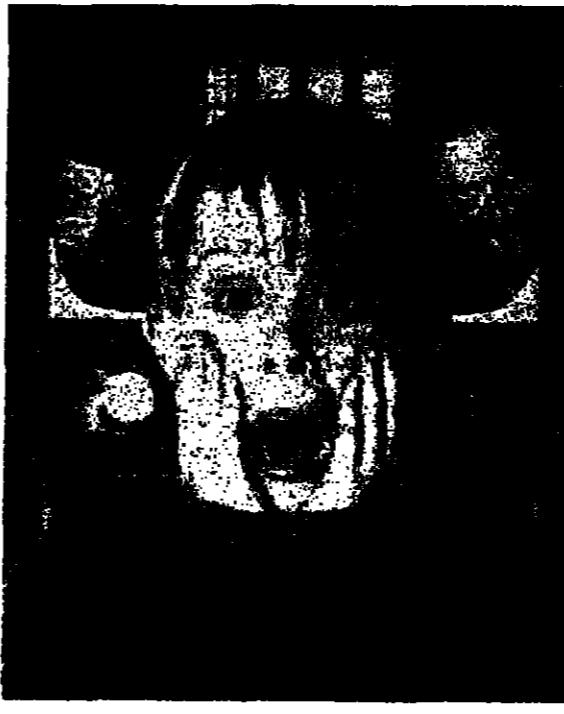
Face to face: Michael Heseltine, the environment minister, campaigning in Oxford with his wife Anne, met his Spitting Image at an exhibition at the Ashmolean Museum and confessed he would like to buy it. His wife said she would never have it in the house.

MORE BLOCKBUSTER PREMIERES ON SKY



ROBOCOP 2
PREMIERE
Saturday 25th April - Sky Movies Plus

HOME ALONE



HOME ALONE
PREMIERE
Monday 20th April - The Movie Channel

YOUNG GUNS II BLAZE OF GLORY

YOUNG GUNS II, BLAZE OF GLORY
PREMIERE
Sunday 19th April - Sky Movies Plus



YOUNG GUNS II, BLAZE OF GLORY
PREMIERE
Sunday 19th April - Sky Movies Plus

**64TH ANNUAL
ACADEMY AWARDS**
LIVE
Tuesday 31st March, 20.00pm
Encore at 7.30pm
The Movie Channel



**64TH ANNUAL
ACADEMY AWARDS**
LIVE
Tuesday 31st March, 20.00pm
Encore at 7.30pm
The Movie Channel



Contact your local retail or cable outlet for details.

PRESUMED INNOCENT

PRESUMED INNOCENT
PREMIERE
Saturday 2nd May - Sky Movies Plus

See what you're missing.

Sky Movies Plus is a subscription channel of Sky Television Plc.
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All broadcast dates subject to change without notice.

Advertising

Labour's style wows America

FROM JAMIE DETTMER IN WASHINGTON

LABOUR'S admen are being sought by political advertising consultants in America, who have been, in the words of one of them, "wowed" by the party's drama-documentary style commercials. "US negative advertising with a British twist," Tom Edmonds, a Republican political consultant, said.

Manipulative it might be, the consultants here argue that television is a technical asset to democracy as commercials can help to identify important issues.

The attack ads seen here during the current race for the White House tended to explore the personal records of rival candidates. Four years ago, the level mud-slinging was especially high. In a startling development after the 1988 election, a Republican candidate for a state legislative seat in Minnesota was indicted on charges of breaching the state's campaign practice act.

The Labour commercial may in the future be as influential in British advertising circles as the 1964 "Dai Girl" advert was in developing American television campaigning. Produced for the Lyndon Johnson campaign and aimed at undermining Barry Goldwater, the ad showed a little girl plucking the petals from a daisy, counting inaccurately. The frame freezes. A male voice starts a different kind of countdown. The camera zooms in on the girl's eyes. An atomic mushroom cloud erupts and Johnson intones: "We must live together, or we must die. The stakes are too high for you to stay at home."

Other consultants cited a recent commercial produced by Bob Squires, the doyen of Democratic admen, for a Senate campaign which

"My sister's little heart could take no more."

Hung parliament is European view

Alison Roberts
discovers what
European MPs
think of Britain's
election

AFTER a week of bemused British election watching, 100 MPs from all over Europe yesterday gave their verdict in a mock poll and voted for that most European of results — a hung parliament.

They had sat through the election broadcasts, witnessed the future, puzzled over the newspapers writing about the broadcasts and spent a day talking to voters on the doorstep, usually about the broadcasts. Most were amazed at the fuss caused by ten minutes of television and the power of that medium.

For a group of young, enthusiastic politicians, the 46 per cent turnout was distressingly low when voting took place between seminars at the Future of Europe conference in London.

In the end, party loyalties won with 22 of those on the right of centre voting Conservative and 16 socialist delegates supporting Labour. François Pauli, a French socialist, enthused about Neil Kinnock, calling him charismatic and cooler than Mr Major. Eastern Europeans tended to vote Liberal Democrat, perhaps identifying with the newest party.

Indulis Berzins said that it had been an election dominated by the media —

he had been following it himself in the Baltic on satellite television. As leader of the Latvian right of centre majority, his vote went to John Major. "I think in Latvia it is very necessary to have policies that are a little bit like the Conservative policies," he said as socialist eyebrows rose around the room.

One German Bundestag member said: "Of course the result is not valid with this way of voting." The first past the post system was widely condemned and the best method of proportional representation debated in true European style with no one agreeing and everyone talking.

But the final result pleased most. A hung parliament was nothing to be afraid of, a Russian delegate said. Unfortunately the Italians, masters at solving the problems of political alliances, had withdrawn their delegation at the last moment. They face a real election next week and were making their own election broadcasts.

Laura's story is even unusual.

Jill, not its

ON November 30th, 1991, soldiers entered the village of Imamuddin Para, in Burma's Arakan province.

They burst open the door of the village grocery store, seized the shopkeeper, Imam Hussain, and marched him outside.

Placing a heavy box of ammunition on his shoulders, they informed him that he was now a porter for the Burmese Army.

The weight was crushing. After a few miles Hussain protested that he did not have the strength to carry it any further.

The soldiers responded by giving him a savage beating.

Then they took him and nailed him to a tree with his arms outstretched.

They cut off his penis and put it into his mouth. They severed his nose and ripped off his eyebrows.

At last, a soldier thrust a bayonet into his chest and, mercifully, Imam Hussain died.

"My sister's little heart could take no more."

Hussain's wife, Zohra Begum, was at home seven miles away when news of the tragedy reached her.

She ran all the way to the spot and found her husband's mutilated body still nailed to the tree.

In a daze of horror and grief - hardly knowing what she was doing - Zohra started back for help.

She had almost reached home when an evil chance brought her face to face with the soldiers who had killed her husband.

They showed their pity for the sobbing woman by gang-raping her.

A week later, the same soldiers took Zohra and her twelve-year-old sister to the Lawadong army camp, where they were locked in a room with about forty other female captives.

Soldiers would enter the room, choose a woman, and repeatedly rape her in front of all the others.

Zohra said, "After five days my sister's little heart could take it no more. She went into convulsions and died. When the soldiers saw that I, too, could take no more, they freed me."

Zohra's story is not even unusual.

We'd probably never have heard Zohra's story had she not managed to escape to a refugee camp in Bangladesh, where she met Jon Swain of the Sunday Times. The savagery of what happened to her



The soldiers who crucified her husband and raped her 12-year-old sister to death will do it again.

And again.

And again.

And there's nothing we can do to stop them.

and her family might tempt you to think that it's an extreme case - the work of madmen - but it isn't.

Zohra's was by no means the only horrible story in the Sunday Times article.

And over the last few weeks many more atrocities have been reported in the newspapers.

None of this is even new.

Amnesty reports published in November 1990 and January 1992 gave the world details of what was happening in Burma - or Myanmar, as it is now called by its military rulers.

We reveal that the Burmese army was conscripting villagers to serve as porters, sometimes

killing them when they became too weak or too ill to carry their loads.

We told how village women are living in fear of gang-rape.

We told the story of a Muslim woman who was forced to be a porter in April 1991. She was beaten to death by soldiers after she suffered an epileptic seizure which made it impossible for her to carry her load.

Surely something can be done to help.

Reading this, there's probably just one thing you want to know. What can be done to help?

The answer is, nothing. Burma is a closed country.

Amnesty International has never been allowed in.

Apart from brief spells in 1989 and May 1990, journalists have been refused entry.

Dozens of governments, including Britain's have demanded

Please - this time - today - this minute - light the candle.

We've asked you many times before to join us. Perhaps you've meant to respond, but just never got around to it.

Do it now.

If only you realised how valuable your help is, you wouldn't let anything stop you.

Please - this time - today -

this minute - light the candle.

I wish to be a member of Amnesty International. I enclose £15 Individual £20 Family

£6 OAP £6 Student £7 18-21 £6 under 18 £6 Claimant I wish to

donate £250 £100 £50 £25 £10 Other

I enter my Access, Visa, Mastercard No.

Signed _____ Card expiry date _____

If paying by credit card you should give the address where you receive your credit card bill.

Mr/Ms. _____

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To: Amnesty International British Section, FREEPOST, London EC1B 1HE.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL



that the terror stop - but to no avail. The military junta don't give a damn what you, or Amnesty, or anyone else, think of them and their butchery.

And although we will continue to do everything in our power to help people trapped in Burma, right now it seems as though nothing can end the nightmare.

Absolutely nothing.

What should we do when we can do nothing?

When our pity and anger can alter nothing; when we see pain we cannot heal, grief we cannot comfort; when our generosity is as useless as indifference - what should we do then?

Should we despair and do nothing?

Thirty years ago, Peter Benenson founded Amnesty International with these words: "It is better to light one candle than curse the darkness."

In the instant that you are reading this, somewhere a man is crying under torture.

Somewhere, a terrified woman is about to be raped.

Thousands of families are in anguish because their loved ones have "disappeared."

Thousands are unjustly imprisoned with little hope of release.

What's the point of getting angry about not being able to help Zohra, if you're not willing to help these people?

You can do a lot to help them. Every day, Amnesty brings hope to prisoners of conscience all over the world. When we expose what governments are doing public anger often forces them to stop.

All it need cost you to support this work is about one minute of your time and a modest membership fee.

We've asked you many times before to join us. Perhaps you've meant to respond, but just never got around to it.

Do it now.

If only you realised how valuable your help is, you wouldn't let anything stop you.

Please - this time - today -

this minute - light the candle.

Tories' record gets stuck as voters refuse to dance to their favourite tunes



Baker: ready to unleash the law and order issue

RIDDELL ON THE ELECTION

Michael Howard talked yesterday about Salley and Grunwick, but a third of the electorate is too young to remember those violent clashes.

If the Tories lose the election, it may be as much because voters no longer care about their past successes as because of their recent failures. The old times are just not winning the response from voters that they used to do.

The theme of yesterday's Conservative press conference was, for example, Labour and the unions. John Major and fellow ministers, notably a punchy Kenneth Clarke, raised a number of pertinent questions about possible changes to trade union law if Labour wins.

But I doubt if playing the union card will have much electoral impact this time. It is not just that Labour has kept the unions, and their leaders, out of sight in the current campaign and that Tony Blair has been agile in offering reassurances that there will be no return to the union laws of the 1970s. It is mainly because voters no longer believe that the unions are a serious problem, even though some of them is still cited as a reason for not voting Labour.

Trade unions, which in the 1970s were one of the main influences on voting decisions, do not now feature on lists of the most important issues, according to recent Mori surveys. Frustrating though it must be for the Tories, that is their reward for reducing the number of strikes and for defeating Scargillism.

Similarly, on Tuesday, the Tories tried to highlight foreign affairs. It was probably the party's most successful press conference, since Mr Major and Douglas Hurd have a strong story to tell. Voters have good grounds for believing that Britain's standing in the world is safe in their hands.

But again, I doubt if the elector-

ate is listening. Foreign policy barely registers among the most important issues for voters, and even Europe is down towards the bottom of the list. The importance, or salience, to voters of defence, previously a strong issue for the Tories, has declined considerably since the 1980s.

The Tory advantage, while still larger than on any other question, is less in some surveys than in either the 1983 or 1987 elections. The end of the Cold War means that current threats to peace are less immediate, while Labour has moved into the mainstream on Europe and defence. There are still differences between the parties on these matters, but it is no longer plausible for the Tories to mount a poster campaign, as they did effectively in 1987, showing a soldier with his hands up to represent Labour defence policy.

The Tories' problem is that they are strongest on the issues which the voters now care about much

less than before, and weakest on those which voters care about most, such as health, education and unemployment.

The latest row about Labour's election broadcast is a mixed blessing for the Tories. The dispute over the facts of the case on which the broadcast was based has provided them with ammunition to challenge the credibility and integrity of Neil Kinnock and has forced the Labour leadership to justify itself. But the affair has also drawn attention to health, by far the most important issue for voters, and Labour yesterday was providing many other examples of children who had to wait a long time for operations. It is too early yet to assess how far voters see the episode as damaging Labour's trustworthiness and how far it reminds them of their own and friends' worries about hospital waiting lists.

Of the eight most important issues in deciding votes, Labour is now ahead on all but three. Even

in those areas where the Tories are ahead — managing the economy, law and order and taxation — their lead has shrunk. Indeed, the lead on taxation has declined since the beginning of the campaign.

About the only strong card which the Tories have not played so far is law and order, but I doubt if we will have to wait long for Kenneth Baker to be unleashed. And more, much more, is promised on taxation.

The Tories really have no choice but to follow this strategy. The positive points of their record on foreign policy and the unions are not the main priorities of voters. There is a limited extent to which any party can shift the focus during a short campaign. So far they have concentrated mainly on attacking Labour policies rather than explaining what a Tory fourth term would be like. The election will be decided by how far these warnings strike home.

Peter Riddell

The power
who keep
shows o

Trade unions

Ministers raise ghost of flying pickets

BY ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

THE Transport and General Workers' Union gave more money to Labour's campaign in 1987 than the total amount raised by the Conservatives from British industry. Chris Patten, the Conservative party chairman, said yesterday.

As the Tories sought to switch the agenda away from health, Mr Patten joined John Major, Michael Howard, the employment secretary, and Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, in insisting that, as Mr Clarke put it, "a Labour government would be a government of the unions, by the unions and for the unions". Mr Clarke said that the unions controlled 90 per cent of the votes at Labour's party conference and sponsored more than half of Labour's MPs. They dominated decision-making, affecting the choice of candidates and policy.

Mr Clarke said that Labour was not independent, but was the political wing of the union movement. "Union money keeps Labour afloat. Union facilities keep the Labour campaign going. Union control ensures Labour dances to the unions' tunes," he said.

Mr Major said at the Conservative press conference yesterday that the record level of industrial peace achieved last year was under threat. "Strife and disruption used to dominate our national life. Flying pickets, wildcat strikes, power cuts, intimidation, confrontation, lost orders, cancelled deliveries and soaring inflation: those were the features of a country out of the control of its Labour government and under the control of its unions."

The confederation said that Labour's higher-rate tax plans would damage confidence. It said that manufacturing exports were at an all-time high, 500,000 more people were employed than in 1979, and investment in skills and innovation was rising.



Eigg box: Katie Ann MacKinnon, the presiding officer on the Hebridean island of Eigg, holding the ballot box delivered to her house by helicopter yesterday

Pay regulators' days look numbered

WAGES councils have lived a charmed life under the Conservatives. The 26 councils, which set the wages of 2.34 million workers, have been the butt of criticism by every employment secretary since James Prior.

They are loathed by employment department officials, who have no wish these days to practise bureaucratic intervention in pay determination. They have been castigated as job-destroyers by small employers led by the Institute of Directors. Yet they have survived.

The prime minister's statement yesterday that "there isn't a long-term future for the wages councils" appears to confirm that abolition will not be long delayed. Tony Blair, the shadow employment secretary, said in Glasgow: "Having created two and a half million unemployed, the Tories now want to create two and a half million low paid."

The wages councils have their origins in the 1909 Trade Boards Act, which set wages in four trades where pay was exceptionally low. "It is a serious national evil that any class of His Majesty's subjects should receive less than a living wage in return for their utmost exertions," Winston Churchill, the minister responsible for introducing the act, said.

In 1982 Norman Tebbit, Prior's successor, abolished a similar feature of

wages councils are unlikely to survive after the general election, David Lipsey writes

more interventionist days. He repealed the 1946 Fair Wages Resolution, which wrote into government contracts a requirement that employers pay fair wages. Mr Tebbit hinted in the Commons that wages councils would go next.

In 1984, Tom King, Tebbit's successor, collected views on the future of councils. Proponents of abolition included the Institute of Directors. The Confederation of British Industry argued, however, that they should continue, with reduced scope. In 1985, Mr King published a consultation document. One option put forward was abolition, because "the wages council system is a serious source of inflexibility in the labour market, damaging job prospects". The consultation document floated an alternative reform. Employers said that "industrial relations have generally been good in wages council industries". In July 1985 Mr King opted for reform, removing 500,000 workers aged under 21 from wages council protection. The UK would also take a derogation

from the International Labour Organisation convention 26, which requires states to maintain wage fixing machinery.

In 1988, the government invited "views on the proposal that the wages council system should be abolished". In 1989, authoritative press reports said that Norman Fowler, then employment secretary, was determined to legislate. At the end of the year, equally authoritative reports said that he had decided not to.

In March 1990, Michael Howard, who succeeded Mr Fowler, told the Commons that he had "decided not to proceed with the abolition of the councils as present". In June 1991, he told MPs that the councils "do not have a permanent place" in wage setting. That phrase was incorporated in Howard's February 1992 white paper on employment law.

What explains this labyrinthine tale? Observers cite the division among employers as to the desirability of abolition, conflict of evidence as to whether the councils cost jobs and opposition from "wet" Tories. The Tories may now have lost their opportunity to abolish wages councils. If Labour wins, its proposed minimum wage of 30p an hour higher than the most generous wage set by any wages council, would appear to make the councils redundant.

Environment

Lib Dems link poor health to pollution

BY SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Liberal Democrats are the only party to make the environment an important election issue. Paddy Ashdown said yesterday at the launch of the party's "green" policy document.

He said that at the heart of

the party's programme was the creation of a healthier Britain through measures to clean up the atmosphere. "Air pollution is a major cause of respiratory illness such as asthma and bronchitis," he added. "A quarter of Britain's people are suffering from respiratory illnesses. Air pollution also contributes to heart disease and various types of cancer." Water pollution was a further cause of illness, with levels of lead, pesticides and sewage exceeding safety limits in water drunk by millions of people.

The Liberal Democrats

would:

- Support a European Community energy tax.
- Invest in rail and public transport to encourage passengers away from cars.
- Control factory emissions by a licensing system.
- Grade vehicle excise duty according to a car's energy efficiency.
- Increase public information on air pollution.

Hughes: accused two

parties of not acting

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MEDIAWATCH by Brian MacArthur

Leaders muzzle democracy

AS some of Britain's most experienced political reporters tried to report the election this week they were increasingly frustrated by the way the main party leaders are stifling democratic debate by performing for television instead of answering difficult questions.

Television, declared Peter Jenkins in *The Independent*, was a medium that had the potential to extend the democratic process but stood in danger of subverting it. Joe Haines, the former Downing Street press secretary, said in the *Daily Mirror* that snappy one-liners instead of arguments were now offered by politicians: superficiality was all that could be crammed into 20 seconds of television.

But the hard news for British journalism this week is that a few political reporters have managed to upset all the stage-managed press conferences and succeeded in disconcerting both John Major and Neil Kinnock.

The first to do so was Anthony Bevins, political editor of *The Independent*, who says he has never known so many press conferences where journalists were "nailed down, stitched-up, crucified and silenced". In his view, it's "stick your hand up, state your name and number and

no supplementaries. It's a method of control I detest." Bevins is not regarded by the Tories as one of them and often gets ignored. He was noticed on Monday, however, and asked the prime minister if he would pledge that he would not do the same.

This seemingly innocent question was deflected, but when John Cole, the BBC political editor, was called, he put the same question. That was when Mr Major began to stumble, especially when Robin Oakley, political editor of *The Times*, also nagged away at the issue.

On this occasion, Bevins got a "Big Truth". Mr Kinnock riposted, as his minders moved in. Hitchens reported yesterday that his unorthodox technique of simply asking questions was so surprising that he was quickly interviewed for stories by fellow reporters.

All three leaders, afraid of making gaffes, have erected fortresses against questioning journalists. They are using dangerous tactics that suggest either that they are afraid of questions from a bemused electorate or intellectually unworthy of office. The supreme weeks of democracy are surely worthy of more than artificial soundbites and picture snacks.

A s Hugo Young said in *The Guardian*, the people do speak in this election — but only as persons aggregated into faceless, nameless statistics in polls or as extras at walkabouts. They are "a multitude in a wasteland" made to deceive the cameras, passive receivers, no longer active participants in a dialogue nobody controls. "These are the politics of permanent condescension," he said.

That is a chilling thought

that ought to worry the politicians who try so hard to repel the press.

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THE TIMES GUIDE
TO THE HOUSE OF
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APRIL 1992

The power-dressers who keep parties' shows on the road

BY NIGEL WILLIAMSON AND ANDREW PIERCE

JULIE Hall's role in the dispute over who leaked what about the now infamous Labour health broadcast has thrown the spotlight on a new breed of power-dressed political women on the campaign trail.

Every party now seems to regard a posse of attractive and persuasive women as an essential campaign accessory. Ms Hall became the most visible of the breed yesterday when the news manager became the news.

These women are the party minders and press officers who have the unenviable task of stopping their charges making embarrassing public gaffes, keeping the press corps sweet and ensuring that their leaders arrive where they are meant to be at the right time. They have been working up to 18 hours a day since the campaign began.

Computer predicts a Labour majority

BY LIN JENKINS

FOLLOWERS of the Bristol University computer prediction of the election result are in for a disappointment. Whereas in the past they have reaped vast sums gambling on its unlikely but accurate forecasts, this time it is tipping the favourites.

Gordon Reece, the brain behind the model that has correctly forecast the result of the past three elections on the opening day of the campaign, said: "I'm advising everyone not to waste their money."

The prediction made by Mr Reece and colleagues in the engineering mathematics department gives the result of a Labour lead by 20 seats, with 312 seats as against 292 for the Conservatives, 20 to the Liberal Democrats and ten to nationalists, prompting another election in the autumn where Labour will secure a majority.

"Once the unthinkable happens and Neil Kinnock has become the prime minister and the electorate realises that it makes very little difference and he is not as awful as people have been saying, the electorate will drift towards him," Mr Reece said.

The computer shows Labour doing better in the South than in the North and Scotland. Indeed, in Scotland the Conservatives are likely to do better than expected, benefiting from the split vote between Labour and the nationalists. The calculations are made at the start of the campaign since, according to Mr Reece, the following three weeks have no bearing on the result.

A big blow to Conservative morale is predicted with the loss of the party chairman Chris Patten's seat in Bath. "It will be the biggest upset since George Brown lost Belper in 1970 and similar since it will be psychologically disastrous for the party to lose its chairman," Mr Reece said. "It destroys any credibility they would have in saying they could govern."

unheralded and unnoticed — until Ms Hall's starring role.

Ms Hall, aged 33, succeeded Patricia Hewitt as Neil Kinnock's press secretary in 1989. With a degree in industrial relations from Warwick, she arrived in the Labour leader's office via political and trade union programmes at Channel 4, ITN and Granada. Her role includes organising the Labour leader's press briefings, chalking around him protectively like a mother hen.

It is Ms Hall who "interprets" the finer points of politics after a Kinnock interview or speech and provides background briefings in which she speaks with the authority of the leader himself. If Labour wins the election, her presence in Downing Street would establish a powerful link between the prime minister's office and Buckingham Palace. Her fiancé, Colin Byrne, a former Labour press officer, now works for the Prince of Wales. Their wedding is expected to take place this summer.

Her deputy is Hilary Coffman, aged 43, who was first brought in by Michael Foot and has been with Mr Kinnock since he became leader.

Much liked by journalists, many felt she had been hard done by when she did not get the top job after doing it on a temporary basis for several months before Ms Hall was appointed.

Ms Coffman insists that she did not want the job. She prefers the day-to-day contact with journalists, whose company she genuinely seems to enjoy, rather than the more strategic role which Ms Hall's job entails.

She has two teenage children by a former marriage but now enjoys a happy relationship with David Hill, head of campaigns and communications at Walworth Road.

At least one broadsheet journalist wrote a sketch during the last election claiming to have fallen in love with Ms Coffman. She enjoys the ability, surprisingly rare among political press officers, to persuade journalists that she is "on their side".

For the duration of the election campaign, these two women have been joined on the road by Lesley Smith, aged 31, a Walworth Road press officer. Part of her job is to keep the accompanying press party entertained and to ensure that in between the photo opportunities, suitable eating and drinking opportunities are not overlooked.

Mr Kinnock's two other female minders are Jan Royal, a charming but intensely private woman with a young family who handles much of his constituency business, and Sue Nye. A bespectacled blonde whose party trick after receptions in the shadow cabinet room used to be to perform acrobatic somersaults, many Labour MPs say that Ms Nye is the most powerful cog in the Kinnock office.

She controls the diary and even senior Labour MPs must go to her if they wish to get a private audience with their leader. She is married to Glyn Davies, the Goldman Sachs economist. Mr Kinnock seldom goes anywhere on official business without one of these two women smoothing his path and ar-

ranging the introductions and handshakes.

For the Tories, Vanessa Ford has attracted the most attention. She has been given the task of accompanying Norma Major around the country throughout the campaign. Miss Ford, a graduate in social sciences from Nottingham University, is one of the few people in the Tory campaign team to have election experience, having managed the press office at Smith Square last time.

Whatever Chris Patten goes, Angie Bray, his personal press officer goes with him.

They begin their day in London at the morning press conference before flying to Bath. She takes her fax, mobile telephone and portable television so that she can stay in close contact with Conservative Central Office, the Major team and journalists throughout the day. One of the last remaining Thatcherites, Miss Bray, aged 38, is an experienced hand among a young central office team and previously worked for LBC and Channel 4's *Diverse Productions*.

When Margaret Thatcher resigned, Miss Bray took a calculated gamble by quitting her job at central office to help with John Major's election campaign. The move paid off and she survived the transition easily when others did not.

Sidonie Myers, aged 24, is the all important Girl Friday at the Conservative party rallies. Known as Sid, she is personal assistant to Russ Pipe, the party's head of presentation who took over from Harvey Thomas when Mrs Thatcher resigned. She came to central office with Mr Pipe from ITN and ensures that everything is in its proper place before the rallies start.

One of her most important tasks on the campaign trail is applying the make-up to both John and Norma Major before they take their seats on the party platforms.

Oily Greider, aged 29, the Liberal Democrats' chief press officer, is probably the most powerful woman in the party. Not only is she running the ten-strong press office team in the party's Cowley Street headquarters from 6.30am to 11pm, she is the only woman on the election strategy team chaired by Paddy Ashdown. Ms Greider is universally popular with reporters, for she neither bullies nor cajoles, but relies on gentle but persistent powers of persuasion to get her way. It was Ms Greider who was given much of the credit for the way in which Mr Ashdown was able to emerge relatively unscathed from the revelations of his extra-marital affair.

Her deputy is Sarah Harris, aged 25, the party's broadcasting officer. She has the task of placing the party's 22 MPs, who come from all four corners of the country, into television studios for current affairs programmes. She is also responsible for ensuring that the third party gets equal billing with Labour and the Tories.

Carolyn Culey, aged 30, is also on the campaign trail for the Liberal Democrats. Her training in the whip's office makes her ideally suited to implement the new anti-terrorist strategy that the Anglo-Irish agreement will be replaced.

Unlike James Molyneaux, the Ulster Unionist party leader, who has ruled out a deal, Mr Paisley seems happy to consider one although he



Supporting roles: Sidonie Myers, the make-up artist, with Norma Major, top; Lesley Smith, left, who has joined the campaign trail for Labour; and Vanessa Ford, who accompanies the prime minister's wife

Northern Ireland

Paisley prepared for post-election deal

BY EDWARD GORMAN, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

IAN Paisley, the Democratic Unionist party leader, made clear yesterday his terms for supporting a minority government. He wants a future government to admit that security policies have failed and to implement a new anti-terrorist strategy. He also wants an official declaration that the Anglo-Irish agreement will be replaced.

Unlike James Molyneaux, the Ulster Unionist party leader, who has ruled out a deal, Mr Paisley seems happy to consider one although he

said that he and Mr Molyneaux would work together in any negotiations. "I'm standing at this election to go to Westminster and so are my colleagues." Mr Paisley said at the launch of his party's manifesto in Belfast. "When we're there we're entitled to make any deals we want."

The manifesto, *Time To Tackle Terrorism*, features a picture of a minibus in which eight Protestant workers were killed by an IRA landmine attack in January. The manifesto calls for new security

measures, most of which have been rejected by the prime minister. They include the effective sealing of the border, the creation of a "ring of steel" around republican areas and the implementation of curfews.

Mr Paisley said that further inter-party talks on the future of Northern Ireland would be doomed if the Irish government and John Hume, the SDLP leader, continued to insist that the union should be an issue for negotiation.

The DUP had three seats in

the last parliament, North Antrim (Ian Paisley), Mid-Ulster (Rev William McCrea) and East Belfast (Peter Robinson). All look safe although the party's share of the vote fell from 20 per cent in 1983 to 11.7 per cent in 1987.

For pensioners, the increases in 1992-3 will be £6.35 for a single person, on top of the proposed rates, and £10.10 for a couple, bringing their pensions to £60.50 and £96.80. Similar increases would be paid in each of the following three years. "The first Scottish government will have a duty to put right the wrongs done to poorer people." The party's attack on poverty was fully-costed.

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Bonn cuts off arms flow to Turkey over Kurd conflict

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN

GERMANY yesterday stopped all arms deliveries to Turkey until it investigates reports that German weapons are being used against the Kurds. The embargo was introduced after television news showed German-built armoured cars in action against Kurdish civilians.

Armoured cars of this kind were delivered to Turkey as part of a DM 1.5 billion (£500 million) package agreed during the Gulf war. They, with 250,000 Kalashnikovs and ammunition from the former East German army, were to protect Turkey from any attack by Iraq. The agreement specified that they were not to be used internally.

On Wednesday, the foreign ministry called in Numan Hazer, the senior Turkish diplomat in Bonn, to find out if the agreement had been broken. In Weimar, Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the foreign minister, said: "We are particularly shaken by pictures of the weapons being used against the civilian population." Herr Genscher has been asked by Portugal, the current president of the Euro-

Tyson delivers own knockout blow

Martin Fletcher
watches the champion go down with a kiss and a tortured smile

MIKE Tyson handed his gold watch to his lawyer, kissed an elderly woman friend, and with a tortured half-smile on his face was led through a side door by a bevy of Indianapolis policemen to begin a six-year prison sentence for rape.

That marked the end of a sensational all-American supertrial, the end of a debauched and riotous lifestyle, and almost certainly the end of a career that had made Iron Mike the youngest and richest heavyweight world champion in boxing history.

His lawyers, the best money could buy, had spent the morning pleading for rehabilitation, not imprisonment, but any chance they had of persuading Judge Patricia Gifford were blown by a bizarre rambling 12-minute monologue by Tyson himself during which he displayed negligible remorse.

Veering between self-pity and defiance, this huge man with shaven head stood at the witness stand and claimed he had been vilified, humiliated and crucified, a victim of his own celebrity. He apologised for any hurt caused, admitted he had been "kind of crass", but denied rape. There were "no black eyes, no broken ribs", he said. He was "trying to have some fun" and had got "carried away" by all the ladies at the pageant but had been portrayed as "a maniac guy who had absolutely gone crazy".

Wildly gesticulating, the boxer said the things he was supposed to have done were



Fallen idol: Mike Tyson arriving at the Indianapolis court yesterday with his lawyer, Vincent Fuller, to receive a six-year jail sentence for rape, despite his own and his counsel's pleas for leniency

just incredible. He was not emotionally disturbed like Charles Manson. He had not come to beg for mercy. "I am here expecting the worst," he said. "I don't know if I can deal with it... I would be afraid but I am not guilty of this crime." He made much of his ignorance

of the law and lashed out at the prosecutors, claiming that they had said "very distasteful things" about him on television and mocking one as a "flash-in-the-paran media star". His performance was starkly at odds with his lawyers' previous attempts to

portray him as essentially a good man who had been unable to cope with his early celebrity.

Vincent Fuller, who had spent the 14-day trial in February arguing that his client was so famously debauched that Miss Washington must have known

Tyson jailed, page 1

Fortinsky driving case put off again

THE TRIAL of actress Elizabeth Taylor's husband, Larry Fortinsky, for drunken driving, already 4½ years old, has again been postponed to allow his lawyer to seek dismissal of the charges. May 20 was set for the trial pending the outcome of an appeal to be heard on May 1 by the Riverside county court in California, but deputy district attorney Patricia Erickson has filed a motion to dismiss the appeal, which will be heard on April 10.

The American alto saxophone player Lee Konitz has received the International Jazzpar Prize — the third American to do so — at a ceremony in Aarhus in western Denmark. Konitz, aged 65, honoured for vitalising jazz with blues and pop, received \$33,000 (£19,000) and a small bronze statue.

Italy's state-run television has banned a mineral water commercial featuring American actor John Travolta because of possible political overtones. In the commercial, Travolta states that Italy has as many political parties as it has mineral water companies, and suggests Italians should "choose well". It was scheduled for broadcast on April 2, three days before the general elections. Advertisements on Italian public television cannot have any political content, said Massimo Modesti, a spokesman for the agency that regulates such ads.

Plácido Domingo yesterday gave his blessing to plans to build a £20 million opera house at Compton Verney in the heart of Warwickshire, expected to open within five years. In a message to the project council, the international tenor said: "The growth of opera in Britain since the war has been remarkable. Its artistic achievements are held in high esteem throughout the world. I wish you every success."

Actor Bill Roache — Coronation Street's Ken Barlow — has been admitted to Mansfield General Hospital, Cheshire, for tests on a stomach complaint. His admission was pre-arranged and the 61-year-old actor has been written out of the series for a number of episodes.

Princess Diana took on the role of royal childminder yesterday as she headed out with her two sons for the Austrian Alps. Three young friends, two boys and one girl, joined the party at Heathrow for a half-day holiday of the season. Countess Linda and two little friends were in the coup as the princess, in a green checked jacket, a green polo neck sweater and black shorts, made sure they were all on board.

Democrats break taboo on rumoured Bush adultery

FROM PETER STOTHARD, US EDITOR, IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Bush ought to be held to the same standards of marital fidelity that Bill Clinton has been, Ron Brown, the Democratic party chairman, said yesterday.

In remarks designed to shore up Mr Clinton's campaign and divert attention back to Republican problems, Mr Brown broke a Washington taboo about Mr Bush's alleged, once muchrumoured affair with an aide. He told the *Los Angeles Times* that, if speculation about Mr Clinton's infidelities continued, "I hope George Bush is going to be asked some hard and tough questions".

Rumours about Mr Bush's supposed adultery, first raised before the 1988 campaign, were stopped after his son, George Bush Jr, said the answer to the "A" question was "No". The president himself had never been publicly questioned on the issue.

Clinton aides have privately challenged journalists to devote as much effort to uncovering Mr Bush's alleged affair as they have to Gennifer Flowers and other women associated with Mr Clinton. But Mr Brown's public call was a change of tactic. It came on a day when the Democratic leadership revealed growing nervousness about the damage Mr Clinton could suffer in the coming battle for New York against Jerry Brown, the former California governor.

President endures five-hour check-up

FROM JAMIE DETTMER IN WASHINGTON

NEXT time you go for a medical check-up and complain about the few basic tests a normal physical requires, spare a thought for America's First Patient, the president.

For more than five hours yesterday, President Bush had everything tested as he went through his annual check-up and encountered specialists that most people have never heard of or, if they had, had nightmares about.

"I'm looking forward to it," Mr Bush assured the ever-attentive White House press corps just before boarding the helicopter which was to whisk him to the nearby Bethesda

Thomas Stintzoff, Life & Times, page 5

Polite hello stuns Arab at end of line

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL yesterday discovered that the world may be a smaller place thanks to modern communications, but that technology by itself can do little to bridge the gulf of hatred and suspicion between the Arab world and the Jewish state.

The Israeli state telephone company, Bezeq, has opened a direct dialling service to 11 Arab countries, most of which are still in state of war with Israel, in the hope that individuals in the Middle East might succeed in establishing the sort of contacts which the negotiators at the peace talks have so far failed to do.

However, as Danny Gur-Arie, a reporter for Israel Radio assigned to carry out a one-man diplomatic initiative, discovered yesterday, actually making contact with the enemy does not necessarily lead to an improved relations. After achieving limited success with the reception manager at the Sheraton Hotel in Qatar, who was prepared to discuss the quality of the line, the weather and hotel occupancy at this time of year, the Israeli journalist faced the greatest challenge — making contact with Saudi Arabia, the heartland of Arab Islam and traditionally one of Israel's fiercest enemies.

Unfortunately, he appeared to get through to the Arab equivalent of Basil Fawlty, the desk manager at the Sheraton Hotel in Jeddah,

who was clearly in no mood to put aside his country's conflict with the Jewish state.

The tortured dialogue began with the Israeli reporter introducing himself and announcing with innocent pride that he was calling from Jerusalem. "I beg your pardon," replied the incredulous Saudi, in his best John Cleese imitation.

After the identity of the caller was established, the Israeli journalist continued: "Well, we now have direct lines to call you. I just picked up the phone and dialled right to Jeddah... I'm just calling to say hello, to see how things are over there. How's the weather?"

The enquiry may have seemed innocuous to the Israeli, but to Saudi ears the request had more sinister undertones, perhaps intended to help Israeli air force pilots preparing a bombing raid.

"I'm sorry, I can't help you at all," replied the Saudi.

"How's the weather in Jeddah?" persisted the Israeli.

"Well, I really don't know," said the Saudi, pausing before adding, "it's a funny answer, isn't it?"

"Well, it is funny," said the Israeli, relieved that finally they agreed on something.

"Are you uncomfortable speaking to an Israeli?"

The Saudi hotel manager at first denied that there was anything the matter, but then admitted: "I don't know why, but this is true."

Zaire's UN envoys get an eviction notice

New York: Most non-diplomatic disputes at the United Nations involve the unpaid parking tickets of foreign envoys, but the State Department has now decided to confront a member nation about its failure to pay rent (James Bone writes).

The department has told Zaire that unless it pays the back rent owed by its mission to the UN in New York its diplomats will be evicted not only from the premises, but from America.

This unprecedented move comes after a Manhattan judge ruled that Zaire must pay more than \$400,000 (£235,000) in back rent for offices in a skyscraper near the UN building or move out by April 20.

Judge Leonard Sand rejected Zaire's contention that its ten-year occupancy of the offices was protected by treaties and US domestic legislation. If the public interest was so compelling, he said, the rent should be paid by the US government or the UN rather than "thrusting the entire burden on the shoulders of a single private landlord".

Deal offered

Amman: Iraq proposed the sale or "neutralisation" of the suspected nuclear site of Al-Ateer. The proposal was put forward one day after the International Atomic Energy Agency had announced plans for the destruction of the site. (AFP)

Support wanes

Bangkok: Support appeared to wane among Thailand's pro-military political parties for Narong Wongwan, aged 67, a businessman and leading candidate for prime minister, in the wake of allegations that he is linked to drug trafficking. (AP)

Truce wrecked

Phnom Penh: Thousands have fled from fighting between the Khmer Rouge and government forces in central Cambodia, food distribution has stopped and UN peacekeepers have asked to be armed. A truce signed at the weekend is in tatters. (Reuters)

Gotti overruled

New York: The judge in the trial of John Gotti, the alleged "boss of bosses" who is accused of leading America's biggest Mafia family, has cut short his defence by barring five of the six witnesses that his lawyers wanted to put on the stand.

Syrians leave

Beirut/Syria, which controls more than 80 per cent of Lebanon's territory, has started to reduce its presence in Beirut in a measure described as a prelude for a comprehensive withdrawal in line with the agreement that ended the civil war in 1989.

Israel accused

Jerusalem: Undercover Israeli units operating in the occupied territories have initiated what amounts to a shoot-to-kill policy against Palestinian suspects. Faisal Husseini, the most powerful Palestinian in the occupied territories, alleged.

Space gaming

London: The astronauts on the Atlantis space shuttle fired an electron-beam gun towards the Earth in an attempt to create artificial auroras in the sky which would have been visible from extreme southern latitudes, such as Antarctica.

Libya turns tables on West over Lockerbie suspects

LIBYA has contrived to reverse the international legal situation over the extradition of the Lockerbie bombing suspects. Libya is now the accuser and Washington and London have landed in the dock.

Legally, the Libyan government is fully entitled to refuse the extradition of its own nationals, even if they are accused of international terrorism. Tripoli has asked the International Court of Justice at The Hague to confirm its right to refuse extradition.

As it takes about two years before the court will come to a decision, Tripoli has also requested interim protection to restrain Britain and America from coercing it into surrendering the pair while the court decides on the merits of the case. This preliminary judgment can be expected in a few weeks.

Washington, London and

Marc Weller argues that Tripoli has put Washington and London in the dock over the Lockerbie case by referring it to the international court

ington and London frustrated a possible trial by refusing to furnish the evidence they claim to have.

A reluctance to take at face value Libyan promises of prosecuting the two with the necessary vigour is understandable. But a failure by Libya to exercise due diligence in fulfilling its obligations under the Montreal Convention would give even America and Britain a right to apply to the world court. A court decision against Libya could have been enforced by the security council.

Both governments are likely to argue that the Montreal Convention applies and whether Libya is obliged to extradite.

Questions of extradition are among the most delicate, complex and knotty international legal issues — a circumstance frequently experienced by the British government when seeking the transfer of IRA terrorist suspects from the United States and France.

And the security council is not an international tribunal with jurisdiction to decide pre-eminently legal problems. Instead, the United Nations Charter confirms the position of the world court as the "principal judicial organ" of the world organisation.

However, diplomatic, economic and possibly even military pressure designed to force the surrender of the suspects would obviously prejudice a ruling of the world court on whether or not the Montreal Convention applies and whether Libya is obliged to extradite.

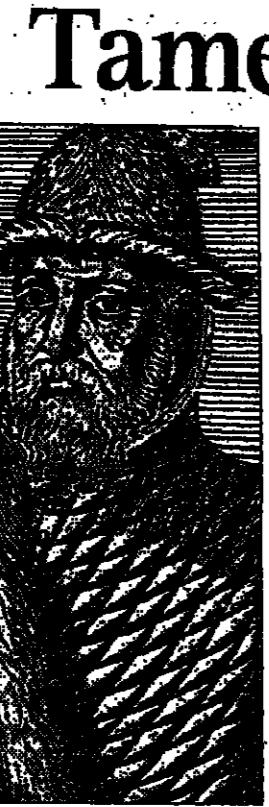
Although the council could practice into parts it could not reach before — the internal affairs of states. But it is precisely the danger of upsetting this fragile and positive consensus in the security council which makes it essential to respect the law. For legal rules safeguard the rights and interests of smaller states.

After the melting of the Cold War, these states are suddenly faced with an apparently omnipotent world organisation. If they are to continue to co-operate with the security council, they must be assured that UN decisions are based on objective law, rather than on the interests of powerful nations.

The author is a Research Fellow of St Catherine's College and the Cambridge University Research Centre for International Law.

Libya "wriggling", page 18
Leading article, page 15





Tamerlane: now seen as a great man

THOSE who take the Golden Road to Samarkand these days "for lust of knowing what should not be known" travel a pot-holed highway lined with silver statues of Lenin and fading slogans promising "The final victory of Communism" or declaring that "Lenin is more alive today than anyone living".

But the death of communism has reached Uzbekistan as it has other parts of the former Soviet Union. The wheel of history is turning again in this fabled city, built by the 14th century tyrant, Tamerlane, with the spoils of a lifetime of bloody conquest.

The images of Lenin are coming down, and the city fathers are busy erecting instead statues to the man the playwright Christopher Marlowe describes as "Scourge of God and terror of the world".

A splendid 20ft statue in bronze complete with sword, shield and helmet is being cast this week. Three other

Communism has gone, and in Lenin's place the people of Central Asia are erecting statues of a 14th century tyrant. Jasper Becker writes from Samarkand

images of Tamerlane are due to follow, although the city authorities are still debating where exactly to put the first one. Several sites recently vacated by the disgraced Lenin are under consideration.

Already a street named after Frunze, the Bolshevik general who brought his own brand of terror to Central Asia — though rather later than Tamerlane — has been renamed Tamerlane Prospekt. Another avenue is no longer called Communist Street but instead honours Tamerlane's wife, Bibi Khanum.

The huge mosque she built in Tamerlane's honour now stands in ruins, allegedly damaged by mortar fire on

the orders of a Russian general in 1878. Restoration work is at a standstill. Little else remains to commemorate Tamerlane's reign other than the Registan, a square formed by three huge and exuberantly decorated madrasahs or religious colleges, which Lord Curzon once described as the noblest in the world.

Tamerlane's tomb, just beyond the main tourist hotel, has now become more than just a tourist sight. These days elderly Uzbeks can be seen crouched in prayer beside the plain black sarcophagus.

"They worship him as a great man and as a saint," said an official guide. The

Tamerlane died of "inflammation of the brain" in 1405 on the borders of China, where he launched his last campaign at the age of 68. His troops carried his body home in a wedding palanquin to prevent news of his death leaking out.

Tamerlane's name means "man of iron" in Uzbek. But the Western version of his name probably comes from the Persian Timur-i-lang, which means Timur the lame. His coffin, which lies in an underground crypt was at one stage opened by a Russian archaeologist and the body exhumed.

The investigation revealed that the occupant was indeed lame, about 5ft 5ins, strongly built, with red hair and with a small scar on his forehead. The story goes that when the body was exhumed, three old men appeared at a tea-house where the gravediggers were resting and warned them not to proceed. Sure enough,

when his coffin was opened, they found written inside, the threat that "whoever opens my tomb shall unleash an invader more terrible than I". A day later on June 22 1941, the Nazis invaded the Soviet Union.

Tamerlane was reburied a year later with documents testifying to his identity written in Russian, Persian and Uzbek. Few people in Samarkand object to the re-discovery of Tamerlane as a local hero and the simultaneous demise of Lenin, always an imported hero at best in Central Asia.

A sensitive issue in Samarkand is whether Tamerlane was an Uzbek, or rather a Persian-speaking Tajik. Most of the city's newer residents are Tajiks, who claim Tamerlane the tyrant as their own, and deeply resent the way in which Uzbek has replaced Russian as the official language of Uzbekistan.

Leading article, page 15



Lenin: an imported hero in Central Asia

Ukraine's isolation alarms West Tensions open Kiev split with Moscow

FROM BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW AND ROBERT STEELY IN KIEV

RELATIONS between Russia and Ukraine, the axis of the fragile Commonwealth of Independent States, are deteriorating at a pace which is causing confusion and alarm among the Western powers.

In telephone conversations over recent days, the efforts of President Kravchuk of Ukraine to explain his side of the story to Western countries have been countered by stiff messages from President Bush and President Mitterrand. In particular, diplomats here say, there is considerable concern over President Kravchuk's suspension of the transfer of nuclear arms for destruction in Russia, on the ground that the situation in the neighbouring republic is too chaotic to be sure of the weapons' fate.

President Bush is reported to have said that, at a time when the future of the commonwealth was looking so delicate, it was especially important for countries to stand by their promises, including Ukraine's pledge to get rid of banned nuclear weapons by July. President Mitterrand said that he was concerned at the sharpness of disagreement between the commonwealth members over military matters.

Washington intends to offer "quiet encouragement to both sides to come to a working agreement" on the transfer of nuclear weapons, one Western diplomat said. Ukraine has suggested that new mechanisms be found for the weapons' destruction under international supervision, and it has mooted the idea of setting up its own reprocessing plant, which would have the incidental benefit of generating hard currency and keeping atomic scientists employed.

Western governments have reacted coolly to this idea, mainly because of the pre-

cendent it would set for Belorussia and Kazakhstan, the other two former Soviet republics that are supposed to be sending home their nuclear weapons. Russia and Ukraine are also at odds over economic issues, with the Ukrainian parliament resolved to cut loose from the rouble zone this week, strengthen border controls and procure oil from the Middle East in return for manufactured goods, likely to include weapons.

The collapse of the value of the monetary "coupons" introduced by Kiev this year, and the chaos caused by disruptions in the supply of energy and raw materials have driven home the extent to

which Ukraine, like the smaller commonwealth states, has always been dependent on Russia for every commodity, including money. But far from forcing the republics back into closer co-operation, these "economic" pressures seem to be prising them further apart and redoubling the determination of Kiev, at least, to free itself from humiliating dependency.

Almost the only substantial move towards rapprochement between Moscow and

Kravchuk received a message from Bush

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Almost the only substantial move towards rapprochement between Moscow and



Room for religion: girls in Sarajevo attending their first teaching about Islam in Bosnia-Herzegovina's schools since the decline of communism

Cosmonaut is ready for another flight

FROM DAVID JUNGGREN IN ZVYOZDNY GORODOK

SERGEI Krikalev, aged 33, the cosmonaut who missed the Soviet Union's collapse while he was stranded in orbit for ten months, said yesterday that he was ready to go back into space. "Being a cosmonaut is my job. Some rest is vital, so that I can get ready for work in space again," he told reporters at this space training centre near Moscow.

Mr Krikalev, flight engineer, was unshaven and looking gaunt but in good spirits in spite of his 310-day stay in space. He was to have returned to Earth late last year but the mission to bring him back was cancelled because of budget cuts. He finally returned from the Mir space station on Wednesday with Aleksandr Volkov, who had spent 175 days in space, and Klaus-Dietrich Flade, a German air force officer who was in orbit for only eight days.

Wearing light blue overalls with the old "USSR" emblem on one arm, Mr Krikalev said that he had learnt from ground control roughly what was happening in and to the Soviet Union while he was stranded in space. He and his companions spoke to reporters through a thick pane of glass from a separate room in the space centre's medical unit.

Mr Volkov started the news conference in an angry mood, fiercely denying a report in the daily *Moskovsky Komosoleznik* newspaper that he and the other two cosmonauts had partied the night away to celebrate their safe return. "We got back here and went straight to bed. We were in no condition to go boozing," he said. (Reuters)

TIRANA NOTEBOOK by Anne McElvoy

Disco-dancing in the dark to a democratic beat

One minute the solitary working lift in the Hotel Tirana was proceeding downstairs at its regular judder, the next it was not. The capital was in the grip of one of the regular evening power cuts, the result of the entire population turning on their televisions at once with the launch of the Soviet Sputnik satellite in 1957. Experts say the space station is reaching the end of its working life and must be modernised or destroyed in the next few years.

Mr Volkov said one of the highlights of his Mir mission had been the arrival of Herr Flade, who brought with him a selection of traditional German foods. "The food he brought with him was wonderful. We were really missing home cooking at that stage," he said.

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there was the sound of feet padding away.

Ruben remarked: "When they say that sort of thing in Albania, they always mean five days."

Continued shouting and banging was agreed upon instead. A group of south London accents floated into earshot. Three minutes later, the rickety doors had been rent open by the brute force of three British photographers. As if by magic, the manager reappeared and surveyed the scene of the liberation. "Hooligans," he said.

At the disco, Tirana's *jeunesse dorée* was grooving in the candlelight. The private generator could cope with the sound system but not with flashing lights. "We can have either the lights or the music," the owner, a wealthy Kosova Albanian, explained, "but not both."

The sole guest of honour was the Yugoslav ambassador, who danced an uneasy foxtrot with his wife to the stomping beat before leaving in a huff after being questioned too closely about his government's repressive policies in Kosovo.

There are not many parties here, so most of the disco-goers could be found again at the German embassy's post-election bash.

"Quick," said the ambassador, clearly aware of the prime purpose of socialising in Tirana. "There's still something left to eat." Three fowl of uncertain origin were being hacked apart by the embassy cook for the hungry guests. "Do you have any sausages left?" enquired a German television correspondent hopefully. "Not socialist," came the indignant reply. "I am democrat."

If John Major should feel in need of a fillip to his electoral campaign, he should call Sali Berisha, Albania's new leader — providing he can wangle access to the single incoming telephone line to Tirana that works. Mr Berisha accosted the British press at the celebrations after his landslide victory to ask how the British prime minister was faring. "Mr Major is a wise and agreeable man," he boomed. "I wish him a majority as big as my own. Tell him if there is anything I can do to assist. I will."

Train to Auschwitz recalls Vichy victims

FROM PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS

FIFTY years ago today the first trainload of French Jews rounded up under the German occupation set off from Paris to Auschwitz and the "night and fog" of the Final Solution. All but a handful of 1,100 in that convoy perished, and as the packed cattle wagons kept rolling east during the next two years over 70,000 more Jews in France were deported to the death camps.

To mark this tragic anniversary, the Paris authorities have joined forces with Jewish community organisations to stage a moving exhibition dedicated to the memory of the victims, among whom were about 1,100 young children. Today's official opening by the mayor of the capital, Jacques Chirac, will also mark the end of renovation work on the centre housing the Memorial to the Unknown Jewish Martyr.

The uncompromising title of the exhibition, *Le Temps des Rêves* (Time of Hate Round-ups), serves as a sombre reminder of the degree to which France's Vichy government co-operated with the Nazis over the fate of its Jewish citizens. Some French officials and police worked with little sign of repugnance within the highly organised

system that delivered them to the gas chambers.

The first internment camp for Jews in France at Drancy, in the suburbs of Paris, was established on the orders of the prefecture it swiftly acquired the nickname of "antechamber to Auschwitz". Among the documents now on display are French archives providing names, addresses and descriptions of some 150,000 Jews; French gendarmes used that list to seize men, women and children from their homes and herd them on board the convoys to oblivion. The exhibition also reminds visitors, with films, seminars and survivors' testimony, of the non-Jews who risked their lives to harbour or save fugitives.

As an integral part of the exhibition, the passage of the Jews to their doom is to be commemorated symbolically by a journey along the same railway route across Germany and into Poland for arrival at the ramp in Auschwitz for a silent ceremony. For the Paris lawyer and Nazi-hunter, Serge Klarsfeld, who conceived the idea, this is a powerful opportunity to combine solemn remembrance with the coming of a new Europe in which such evil must never be allowed.

Pravda returns

MOSCOW: *Pravda*, formerly the official daily of the Soviet Communist party, is to return after ceasing publication two weeks ago. *Sovetskaya Rossiya* said: "The editor of *Pravda* said it had been promised credits by a bank. (AFP)

Chemical to go

Rome: Atrazine, a weed killer massively used in rice fields and with other crops, has been banned throughout Italy. Produced by Italian and European chemical companies, it had been blamed for the growing pollution of water wells. (AP)

Fears dismissed

Brussels: Denying that regulations under the EC's single market meant that specialist foods, notably smelly French cheeses, would be banned, Martin Bangeman, the European Industry Commissioner, said: "That's nonsense. The contrary is true." (AFP)

Food tainted

Moscow: Residents of the northern Russian town of Archangel rushed to buy three tonnes of sausages. But after the entire consignment had been sold, health inspectors announced it was unfit to eat. Rat fur had been discovered in the sausages. (Reuters)

Where's our London pride?

Despite its detractors, the capital is a fine place to live, says Tony Travers

London-bashing has become a popular sport. Opposition politicians, business leaders and cities elsewhere in Britain have formed a rainbow coalition of detractors. The capital is too crowded, too dirty, too expensive, too criminal, and has a collapsing "quality of life". A slide into economic decline is predicted.

Facts rarely play a part in the gloom-merchants' catalogue of despair. This is just as well, as the statistics show a rather different picture from these emotionally-charged attacks. Consider three key factors which provide evidence of life in London as compared with the rest of the country.

Crime is out of control in London? Well, not according to the figures. The total number of notifiable offences recorded by the police rose by 47 per cent in London between 1981 and 1991, while in England and Wales outside London, the comparable figure was 86 per cent. This staggering difference is some way from the conventional (and highly influential) perception of bandits lurking on ever more street corners in the capital. Homicide statistics show a similar picture. Between 1981 and 1985, there were, on average, 174 homicides per year in the capital, rising by just under 5 per cent, to an average of 182 per year between 1987 and 1991. The respective figures for England and Wales outside London show an increase of more than 12 per cent.

So, if crime fails the "London's burning" test, what about homelessness? Surely, Londoners are suffering out of all proportion to their neatly-housed provincial cousins. Wrong again. The number of registered homeless households in London rose by 113 per cent between 1980 and 1990, compared with a rise of 140 per cent in England outside London. Of course, it is still true that a higher proportion of households are homeless in London than in the rest of the country, although the gap is being reduced.

All right then, apart from crime, and homelessness, surely London is educationally subnormal: this is why so many conscience-stricken NW3-types have had to bite the bullet and justify moving their offspring out of the state system. Here things look up a bit for the London bashers. Examination performance is marginally worse in London than in the country as a whole, though not by much. For example, 15.6 per cent of the capital's children get one or more A levels, compared with the national average of 17.1 per cent.

But for the discriminating and footloose parent, there are London boroughs which spectacularly outpace the rest of the country. Barnet, Sutton and Richmond, for example, have excellent exam performances. Better still, London retains a magnet for graduates from all over Britain. Almost 15 per cent of the London workforce holds a degree, com-

'On crime, housing and education, the hard facts don't bear out the catalogues of despair'

life. Comfy, modern German cities may offer cleaner streets and picturesque trams, but it would only be fair to point out that they also offer highly-visible racism of a kind which would pose difficulties for African or Asian visitors to the European bank far outweighing the disadvantage of perhaps having to wait an extra few minutes for the tube.

Two factors more than any others create a problematic illusion of London life: the clapped-out Underground and the rootless in their cardboard boxes. The former is in difficulty, paradoxically, because its recent success has exposed decades of under-investment. The latter is the indirect consequence of policy changes affecting social security and health care during the 1980s, and is, by any standards, a national problem which just happens to have surfaced in the capital. Effort and money on a grand scale are now being devoted to both problems.

If comparisons are to be made involving London, let them be fair. Do not forget the downside of other cities at home and abroad. Do not imagine that failings such as dirty streets and rising crime exist only in the capital. London is a national asset; an internationally-recognised shop-window for the country. If its image is carelessly tarnished, so much the worse for us all.

The author is a research director at the London School of Economics.



...and moreover

ALAN COREN

Were my mother still around, you would not be reading this. That is because she would have written a note saying: "Dear Mr Jenkins, Alan is suffering from a bilious attack so I'm keeping him in bed." You would thus be using this space to jot telephone messages and decode crossword anagrams, while I should be propped limp among the camellias, reading *The Beano*, drinking Tizer, and listening to Workers' Playtime.

She would have spared you much: a bilious attack shared is rarely a bilious attack halved, and before we get to the foot of column three we may well have parted company, you and I, perhaps for good. But my contractual obligation at this stand is to provide a sideways look at life, and since it is becoming increasingly difficult to look life in the eye at all, it follows that there will be days when the touche view is the only one there is, however dispiriting the consequences.

Let us call them the days of the feelbad factor. We do not hear much about the feelbad factor, possibly because those who suffer it most are too busy attaching the noose to the joist of stirring the styrchnine into the cocao, but its insidious spread is accelerating. You can smell it on the wind, you can taste it in the water, and, if you throw up the basement and cock an ear, you can hear it in the unmistakable rattle of a handcart lurching towards hell.

My own current bout began

The NHS always appears to be underfunded, whichever party is in power, argues Rudolf Klein

An incurable case

Political embarrassment is inherent in the nature of the National Health Service. Its history is one of regular crises, and a built-in perception of underfunding, under both Labour and Conservative governments.

Consider the question of whether the Tories have starved the NHS of money, which is central to the election debate. It is impossible to answer, since no one has come up with a formula for determining what an adequate level of funding would be. The much quoted figure of 2 per cent a year rise, in real terms, being needed to pay for the ageing of the population, technological change and new policies was a clever invention by a Department of Health civil servant in the 1970s, designed to extract money from the Treasury. Its pseudo-precision should not instead. It rests on an extrapolation of past trends, and one could easily argue that it should be half or twice that figure.

So when examining the spending record of the Conservatives through the 1980s, one is using an elastic measuring rod. In the 1980s, the magic figure of a 2 per cent growth rate could be winked

out of the statistics only by including the so-called efficiency savings. But in the 1990s, with the approach of an election, there has been an outburst of generosity. The autumn settlement provided an extra £2.2 billion for the NHS in England in 1992-3: a rise of 4.2 per cent in real terms.

Indeed the government has in some respects short-changed itself in the funding debate. Most of the argument has been based on the financing of hospital and community services. But expenditure on primary health care, which is not cash limited, has been rising much faster. Also, the government has been pouring money into residential and nursing home care through the social security system, so allowing hospitals to decant many of the elderly people from their beds, a saving for the NHS of possibly as much as a billion pounds.

But, however one manipulates

the figures, as both the government and the Opposition do, one thing is quite certain: the perception of underfunding will persist, and governments will continue to be blamed for everything that goes wrong in the NHS. This would be true even if Labour were to add a post-election bonanza to the pre-election sweetener of the Conservatives. There are two reasons why

this is.

This is not necessarily a cynical or deliberate strategy, but it does remove any responsibility for shortcomings from the service providers. Rather than blaming themselves, they can always blame underfunding. At any time in the history of the NHS, it has been possible to find examples of desperately ill people not being treated, or even being turned away to die. But searching out the usually complex reasons why this happens does not fit into the neat antithesis of political debate: it is much easier to lay all the blame on shortage of cash.

Rudolf Klein is professor of social policy at Bath University, and author of *The Politics of the NHS*.

Other factors peculiar to the present government have reinforced this phenomenon. The Conservatives' reforms of the health service affronted the medical profession because they were introduced without consultation. Furthermore, they challenged the medical profession's autonomy: the new general practitioner contract spells out the GP's responsibilities as never before. This lingering resentment means, once again, that everything that goes wrong is blamed on the changes introduced by the government.

On the issue of the health service, therefore, the Conservatives can at best hope to limit the damage. An election campaign is hardly the best setting for trying to make sense of ambiguous data and difficult arguments. At most the Tories can console themselves with the thought that a Labour administration, if returned, would face much the same criticisms before the end of its term.

Rudolf Klein is professor of social policy at Bath University, and author of *The Politics of the NHS*.

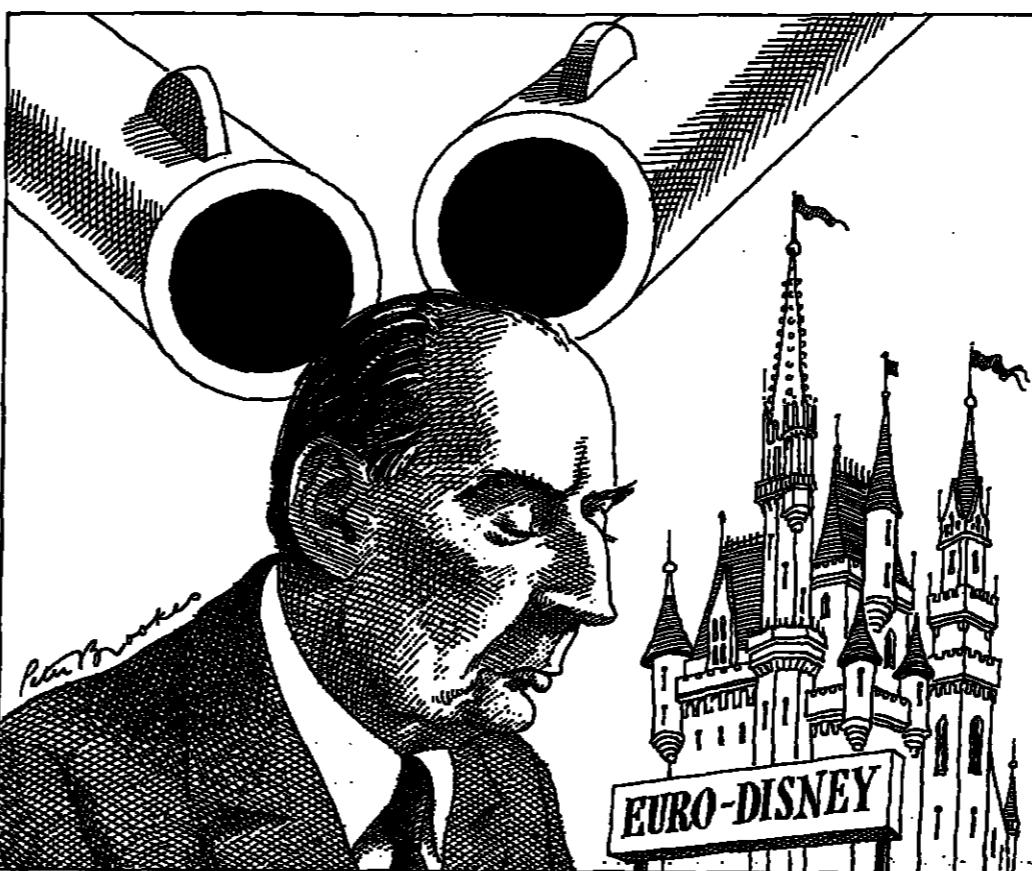
Mitterrand loses his touch

The French are no longer sure of their politics or culture, writes Patrick Marnham

Serge July, editor of the left-wing paper *Libération*, summarised the results of last Sunday's French regional elections, which saw the collapse of the ruling Socialist party's vote, as "the end of the Mitterrand era". And on the morning after the poll, the editor of *Le Monde* was writing of "the collapse of the structure of the 5th Republic".

The regional elections have resulted in a curious situation in which there are no winners and prizes for no one — the opposite of Lewis Carroll's Caucus race. The Socialist party, with 18.3 per cent support, has achieved its worst result in a national election since it was founded by François Mitterrand at the Congress of Epinay in 1971. All over France, Socialist party stars sent out to lead regional voting lists have been ignominiously defeated.

Yet the democratic right — united as the UPF — has also managed to lose 8 per cent of the votes it won at the previous regional elections in 1986. And though the National Front held its ground, it has occurred to some alarmed observers that this may not be the end of the Mitterrand era after all. If Sunday's voting pattern were repeated in next year's legislative elections under the traditional first-past-the-post system, the UPF would win an overall majority of 93 in the National Assembly, where the National Front would hold only 2 seats. But if President Mitterrand should move the goalposts — as he has the power to do — and introduce proportional voting for legislative elections as well, then the UPF would fail to gain an overall majority and the National Front would win 77 seats. The Socialist party would win about



a charismatic Mitterrandist minister.

As a result of holding the elections by proportional representation, there is now no workable majority in 15 of the 22 regions. But it has occurred to some alarmed observers that this may not be the end of the Mitterrand era after all. If Sunday's voting pattern were repeated in next year's legislative elections under the traditional first-past-the-post system, the UPF would win an overall majority of 93 in the National Assembly, where the National Front would hold only 2 seats. But if President Mitterrand should move the goalposts — as he has the power to do — and introduce proportional voting for legislative elections as well, then the UPF would fail to gain an overall majority and the National Front would win 77 seats. The Socialist party would win about

140 seats under either system.

The result under proportional representation would be a National Assembly in which the National Front held the balance of power and President Mitterrand could present himself for the last two years of his presidential term as the only effective opponent of the extreme right. Could M. Mitterrand muster the cynicism needed to retain power by handing Jean-Marie Le Pen 77 seats in the National Assembly? The answer from observers of all political tendencies comes thundering back: "Yes, he could."

This week, the attacks on President Mitterrand have been bitter, and they have come from all sides.

He has been accused of covertly reducing French politics to an Italian level, and the man who is supposed to be "the leader of all the French" is said to have divided and redivided the electorate for

his own advantage, heedless of the cost to the nation. Under President Mitterrand, the Fifth Republic has become a democracy in which the individual in power can change the rules of the political game more or less as he pleases. It had already failed to reach agreement on something as fundamental as the financing of its political parties. Today those parties are seen by articulate Gaullist deputies such as Philippe Séguin and Philippe de Villiers as bearing more resemblance to sophisticated systems of patronage and cronyism than to bodies representing currents of national opinion.

As recently as 1989, when it was celebrating the bicentenary of the revolution, France seemed to be an economic model for Europe and the continent's political leader.

How can it have reached its current state so quickly?

Beneath the superficial turmoil of regional election results there is a more profound disturbance in France today: its origins were political, but it has become just as much national and cultural. It began with German reunification and the Gulf war. The speed of the first, followed by the collapse of the Soviet Union, left President Mitterrand visibly shocked and out of his depth in an area where he had formerly presented himself as a man of vision. French support for the Gulf war destroyed the country's Middle East policy and was a brutal demonstration of national pretensions on a world stage which is not so much dominated as monopolised by the United States.

Now, in preventing agreement on Gatt's Uruguay Round in order to protect French agriculture, the French government seems destined to suffer another humiliation at American hands. France today, like Britain in 1956, is a country which has lost a (European) empire and found no alternative role.

By an appropriate coincidence, the current turmoil has broken out just two weeks before the opening outside Paris of Euro-Disneyland, a 5,000-acre site which is the very symbol of American cultural triumphalism. While the arrival of Mickey Mouse has led to an anguished intellectual debate about the unimportance of French culture, the political landscape outside the gates of Disney is almost as bizarre as anything inside.

The great barons of the Socialist party, limping back to Paris with their trousers round their knees, and squabbling about how best to rig the next game, are greeted by the savants of the Académie Française, lamenting the Anglo-Saxon assault on the French language. But no one is listening. Instead, chattering about *le fast food, le weekend* and adding *jazzez-moi*, the French are queuing up to buy a deformed version of their own fairy tales, marketed by a staff of French naïves whose first condition of employment is that they should not, while at work, speak French.

heared the news and took to the streets instead. I saw a young man attempting to convince a tank commander to turn back. He said he had orders to destroy our barricades, but he was talked into bowing to the will of the people."

Solomon, who is now helping to set up an Institute of Contemporary Arts in Moscow, then clambered on top of the tank outside the White House in Moscow — a picture which he hopes will soon be hanging on the wall of the other White House, in Washington.

• How seriously can we take the boast of The Independent, whose front page each day proclaims that its election coverage is "impartial"? From the City Road newsroom comes intelligence that two of its reporters, Geraldine Norman, the saleroom correspondent, and her deputy, John Windsor, are standing for the Natural Law Party. "But I won't be campaigning. That is against our party's policy," she says.

Acting guilty

BROADWAY'S version of *Death and the Maiden*, which opened last week, has been hit by further controversy. Following the outcry over the exclusion first of the British cast and then of Hispanic actors, Glenn Close has become the latest target of the protesters.

Close, who plays the role taken by Juliet Stevenson in the British production, has failed the New York political correctness test — or rather her father has. He is none other than the personal physician to Mobutu Sese Seko, the president of Zaire. Protestors picketing the Brooks Atkinson Theatre claim that Dr William Close has "condoned the policies of a dictator". In the play, his daughter takes the role of Paulina — the victim of a dictator.

More of the same?

REMEMBER where you saw it first. It was yesterday's Diary which disclosed that Conservative Central Office had learnt in advance about Labour's controversial party political broadcast. We reported that William Waldegrave had set up a damage limitation team, led by his special adviser Richard Marsh, to deal with just such stories during the campaign.

Tipped off in advance from the inside, Richard Marsh ensured that sympathetic newspapers were briefed even before Labour's broadcast went out, so that the morning papers were able to pour scorn on Labour's claims yesterday. It was just the sort of slick operation the Tories had previously failed to mount. Th-

Well there may be more to come. Waldegrave's team is shadowing the work of Labour's "media initiative unit", which despite the furore over Jennifer Bennett is collecting further human interest health stories. After compiling a dossier of more than a thousand cases, the unit has set up a special telephone line for the public to supply alleged instances of delayed NHS treatment.

Heading the unit is Phil Woolas, a former television journalist, who has coordinated the handling of hundreds of cases brought to his office since Tuesday night's programme. They now have enough stories to bombard the public with a dozen a day for the duration of the campaign if the public has the appetite. The unit is supported by three powerful advertising gurus: Barry Delaney, Philip Gould and Chris Powell, brother of Mrs Thatcher's former foreign policy adviser, Sir Charles.



The Conservation Foundation Inside the Royal Geographical Society is being inundated with telephone calls for John Major. But Major has not been near the RGS during the election campaign, although Neil Kinnock last week filmed some of his next election broadcasts there. There is a simple explanation. "I think the directory enquiries computerised system has got us mixed up with Conservative Central Office," says David Shreeve, the foundation's director.

Mandarins' man

ONE civil servant anxiously awaiting the result on April 9 must be Britain's ambassador in Moscow, Sir Rodric Braithwaite. He was expecting to take over later in the spring from Sir Percy Cradock as special foreign policy adviser in Downing Street.

The job was invented by Mrs Thatcher after the Falklands War as an alternative source of advice to the then suspect Foreign Office. The post was filled by Sir Anthony Parsons, but like so many Whitehall jobs, it did not fade away when the need for it was gone. As quid pro quo for the offensive post existing, the FO has always succeeded in getting its own man appointed and using him as a useful friend within the court.

Braithwaite, as the brightest star not to have made either ambassador to Washington or permanent secretary, is an obvious choice. He is both an Atlanticist and a Russophile. With the FO eagerly building a bureaucratic empire for Britain's Euro-presidency later this year, John Major, who had agreed to the. Braithwaite appointment, would welcome an in-house sceptic with strong contacts with both America and Russia. But would Neil Kinnock and his putative foreign secretary, Gerald Kaufman, feel the same?

White House tales

THE label "the man Moscow wants in the White House" would in times gone by have been enough to sink the chances of any presidential hopeful. Today, however, Bill Clinton can make the claim in the hope that it will enhance his

accident-prone campaign. The alleged support of Boris Yeltsin comes via Andrew Solomon, a New Yorker who has become Clinton's adviser on Russian affairs and who found himself during a holiday last August manning the barricades with Yeltsin's supporters during the coup.

"I was going for dinner when we

Particularly if who is concentrating on the general

PASSING



EVASION OF JUSTICE

If the Libyan government had been a human plaintiff presenting its case to the International Court of Justice yesterday, it might have been as a woman dressed demurely in black, sporting bruises where her husband had knocked her about, hoping to win immediate sympathy from the public gallery and the jury. Colonel Muammar Gadaffi, one of the age's great disgregards of international law, has suddenly become enamoured of it, and is trying to recruit it to prevent the international community imposing sanctions on his country.

He has a superficial case. Britain and America, he says, are attempting "illegal and arbitrary blackmail" by threatening punitive UN sanctions and possibly military action in an attempt to force Libya to hand over the two suspects for the bombing of Pan Am flight 103 over Lockerbie in 1988. He cites the Montreal Convention on safety in civil aviation, which gives Libya the right to try the suspects itself. He points out that Libya has extradition treaties with neither country. He claims that the Western states have not provided enough prima facie evidence of the suspects' guilt and fears that, in an election year, the suspects' rights could be sacrificed to the two governments' desire to act tough.

Moreover, Libya questions whether they could be guaranteed a fair trial in either Scotland or America. The release of the Birmingham Four and the Guildford Six has shown up Britain's record of jailing innocent people for terrorist offences. Much of the evidence surrounding the Lockerbie incident, which could prejudice any subsequent trial, has already been published. And, as corroboration of Britain's and America's aggressive and unlawful intent, Colonel Gadaffi can point to the bombing raid on Tripoli in 1986, an act of revenge for a terrorist bombing in Berlin for which Libya

seems not even to have been responsible. So far so reasonable, but no further.

Colonel Gadaffi has supported multifarious terrorist groups working to destabilise Western states, including Britain. Despite occasional professions to the contrary, he has given no evidence that he has stopped doing so. If he wanted to illustrate his intention to disavow his past transgressions, he could, for instance, give the British government information about what he supplied to the IRA, when and to whom.

His recourse to the ICJ is blatant prevarication. The court takes about two years to deliver a final judgment. Colonel Gadaffi claims that all UN action should cease until it decides. Had Saddam Hussein appealed to the court to adjudicate on Iraq's border dispute with Kuwait immediately after his invasion, and had he then expected the allies to leave him in possession while the court pondered, he would have met with an equally brusque response.

Colonel Gadaffi's strategem has been to generate as much random noise as possible in the hope of drowning out the demands of the rest of the world. He has now made numerous offers with different conditions attached, and then withdrawn them. Even his friends in the Arab League have given up on him: yesterday they said they had suspended their attempts to negotiate a handing-over of the suspects because Libya had shown no flexibility.

Libya's government employed the two Lockerbie suspects as intelligence agents at a time when it was plainly sponsoring terrorism. It cannot plausibly be allowed to act as judge, jury and accuser in this case. Libya's past actions have ruled it out of court in international law. It must comply with the United Nations' Security Council resolution 731 and hand over the suspects forthwith.

PACIFIED UNIONS

The Tories played the union card yesterday. Like Labour's health card of the day before, this was a predictable set-piece of the election. Unfortunately for the Tories, however, union-bashing is no longer the winner it once was. The unions scarcely register on the public opinion scanner as an election issue.

Yet if today's unions seem pacific and moderate, this can only be because the Thatcher government marked them out as enemies for one of its earliest and most complete victories. Fewer days are currently being lost by strikes than at any time in the last 60 years, the trend continuing through boom and recession. That very success presents the Tories with a tactical dilemma. The more they boast of past triumphs by stressing how industrially peaceful the trade union scene is now, the more difficult it becomes to scare the voters with the prospect of industrial mayhem if Labour is elected.

Labour is proposing some adjustments to the law but its front bench spokesman, Tony Blair, insists the changes would make not much difference. The employment secretary, Michael Howard, has been claiming the reverse, that Labour intends to undo all Margaret Thatcher's good work. He implies that a Labour government would return the law to what it was in 1979, even giving unions extra powers they did not enjoy then.

The truth is more mundane. Labour would keep the essence of the Tory reforms: the enforcement of democracy in a trade union's internal affairs, and the ending of the general immunity of unions from legal action when their members strike. Immunity would only be allowed, as now, if certain conditions — a secret ballot, for instance — had been met. Otherwise, as now, unions would be liable to pay damages to an aggrieved employer. Mr Howard has proposed, reasonably enough, that union liability be extended to include aggrieved members of the public.

The real legal battleground, not foreseen by either side at the time of the first Tory industrial relations reform, has been over applications for injunctions. Unions have

complained that the judge-made rules governing injunctions were evolved to deal with commercial not industrial disputes. Part of the quarrel between Mr Blair and Mr Howard (barristers both) is over whether Labour's proposed remedies for this are unnecessary, reasonable or excessive. The Tories are hampered by the difficulty of making such technical details look like issues of principle.

What matters far more is the cultural change in British trade unionism initiated by Mrs Thatcher's government. The change has taken the unions away from being outside legal regulation and into a new spirit of law-abidingness. If Mr Blair is to be believed, this spirit will remain under Labour. But for the good of British industrial relations, if not for Tory election chances, Mr Howard does well to force him to say so as often and as categorically as possible.

The argument is between lawyers is a sign of the times. The Tory reforms have shifted the emphasis from collective to individual rights, from the rights of unions to the rights of union members. Labour's thinking is now in the same direction. Its proposal for ballots to allow a workforce to claim the right to union representation implies the right to choose which union. This fits ill with the Bridlington agreement — which the Tories wish to end — under which the TUC dictates which union shall organise in which industry.

This fits well, though, with the "new realism" on employment rights, which sees the law as the chief agent of employment safeguard, unions as their members' advisers and facilitators. Having both moved this way, less now separates Labour and the Tories than either likes to pretend. The public has noticed the change. It may still be concerned at the influence of unions in the public services; it may dislike the continuing role of unions in Labour's own affairs. But it is a measure of the Tories' success at reforming the unions — and it is to the trade union movement's credit too — that the public is satisfied the reforms are irreversible.

PASSING BRAVE

To have Tamerlane as a compatriot might seem a matter for commiseration; to try to take him away from somebody else looks positively perverse. Yet as *The Times'* correspondent in Samarkand describes today, the Uzbeks and Tadzhiks are quarrelling with each other for the honour of having him as their national hero, placing his statues on the public pedestals hurriedly vacated by Lenin.

Nor is this particular scourge of God the first to be rehabilitated. Reports from Mongolia suggest that Genghis Khan's only real problem was the lack of a good press office, which would have pointed out to his victims that they should have judged him "by the standards of his time" — Mongolian standards, of course. Vlad the Impaler was a strong Romanian ruler who restored order and repelled invaders. His mistake was failing to listen to the best legal advice before surrendering to Hollywood the right to film his biography.

Mongolian and Romanian readers must pardon such levity. No better can have been expected of the English, who instead of agonising over the rival merits of William the Conqueror and Henry VIII as models for liberal-capitalist state development, turned them instead to a book of jokes called *1066 and All That*.

Unfortunately history as it is being lived in the former communist countries today is no joke. Every traveller to those lands meets some citizens, young or old, who praises Stalin as a "strong ruler" and demands the restoration of some form of Stalinist rule. This is no joke either: it is all too real a threat. Thus the misery of the present gives a golden glow to the miseries of the past. And weak nations tend automatically to worship strong

leaders, as if, by act of will, they can make them strong too.

If throughout its history a nation has been ruled by a series of tyrants, and autocracy is the only real political model the country knows, then there is logic in seeking as its national hero the most famous autocrat, the greatest and the worst. All of these factors will help the ghosts of Lenin and Stalin to go on stalking Russia for a long time to come. Tamerlane died almost six hundred years ago, will Lenin's image last as long as that? And how will he be remembered in the centuries to come?

The answer is of course that Lenin will be buried or revived by the actions of his successors, their success or failure, their benevolence or tyranny. England has turned Henry VIII into a national joke because he was followed by good monarchs, constitutional rule and national prosperity. Since then history had seemed like nothing more than a series of filmscripts entitled "Return of Henry VIII" and "The Revenge of Henry VIII", it too might be debating its importance as a national symbol.

One thing will undermine the memory of Lenin and Stalin whichever way history turns out: bad taste. The stones themselves remember Tamerlane; his monuments in Central Asia are still grand and beautiful enough to evoke awe and admiration, as Marlowe's monstrous hero foretold:

*Then shall my native city Samarcanda,
And crystal waves of fresh Jaeri's stream,
The pride and beauty of her princely seat,
Be famous through the furthest continents.*

By contrast, the ugly, gimp crack monoliths of communism are crumbling away even before Leninism is cold in the grave.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Peanington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Putting British scientists under the election microscope

From Mr Alan Howarth

Sir, Science is one of our great glories in Britain. The achievements of British scientists — whether measured conventionally in terms of publications and citations, or whether judged more qualitatively — are remarkable, particularly by reference to the size of our population and of our economy. One must question therefore why Professor Nurse and other scientists have offered such a gloomy view in your columns (letter, March 23).

While splendidly rigorous in the conduct of scientific research in their own specialist fields, when it comes to lobbying for public resources and political campaigning even the most eminent scientists are liable to be curiously fanciful and melodramatic.

Scientists insist that the costs of their activity must rise faster than general inflation, but a lot of other groups also make that claim, and the government has to make judgments about the resources that can be made available from the economy as a whole. In fact the government has allowed a special case for science. Although our economic strategy has been to increase the proportion of national resources deployed in the private sector, we have always accepted that government has a unique and indispensable responsibility to support basic science.

In the financial year about to start the government's science budget will have increased by 25 per cent above general inflation since 1978-9, and our plans already published show that figure rising to 30 per cent. Britain's public expenditure on civil science as a proportion of GDP exceeds that of the USA and Japan. Our capacity to spend still more will depend on the future performance of the economy, and those who care about the future of science in this country should consider which party in government would be most likely to provide for sustainable economic growth.

The "brain drain" is one of those snappy bits of rhetoric that serve as a substitute for thought. Advanced science has long been a thoroughly international affair. It is true that in the 1960s there was a worrying exodus from Britain of post-doctoral scientists. But academic protectionism will serve us ill and by no means can we afford to be nervous insularists.

Every year since 1983 we have seen a net inflow of academics into Britain. It is excessively self-deprecating for your correspondents to suggest that scientists now working in Britain are some depressed rump. To take a handful of examples, world-class scientific research is being done in British universities — on molecular biology at Oxford, biorganic chemistry at Cambridge, cellular regulation imaging at Nottingham, parallel computing at Edinburgh, surface chemistry at Liverpool and environmental science at Imperial College.

A little more pride and generosity in recognising the outstanding achievements of their colleagues might serve your correspondents better in enlisting public enthusiasm for the cause of science.

In Britain we are concentrating resources in centres of excellence as assessed by peer review. Among the universities at which your correspondents are based, the latest Universities Funding Council allocations for research imply an increase for Oxford of 16 per cent, Edinburgh 17 per cent, London 14 per cent, Cambridge 19 per cent, Dundee 12 per cent and Glasgow 14 per cent.

Nuclear accidents

From Commander J. F. Webb RN (ret'd)

Sir, The latest radiation leak in Russia (reports and letter, March 25) helps to point the way ahead for nuclear power generation in Britain which, despite the views of present-day Luddites, holds the best hope of providing civilised levels of life for future generations.

The International Atomic Energy Authority must be accorded safety responsibility and full powers to approve all nuclear power station projects and to inspect and shut down any which are not operated and maintained to a sufficient standard.

Yours faithfully,
J. F. WEBB,
21 Fairmile,
Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire.
March 24.

A royal split

From Mr J. A. Walsh

Sir, Ben Macintyre's interesting article (March 20) about the acrimonious divorce of George IV from the famously promiscuous Queen Caroline of Brunswick called to mind the reported graffiti of the day, which ran:

O Gracious Queen, we thee implore
To go away and sin no more;
But if the strain should prove too great
To go away, at any rate.

Yours faithfully,
J. A. WALSH,
30 Otways Lane, Ashstead, Surrey.

From Mr Chris Boylan

Sir, What a lot of fuss (letters, March 24). The Church of England was founded in order to facilitate a royal divorce.

Yours faithfully,
CHRIS BOYLAN,
3 Walden Avenue, Chislehurst, Kent.

They are not being so badly treated.

The Conservative party respects and values British science and a new Conservative government would continue to support science in Britain intelligently and generously.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN HOWARTH
(Under Secretary of State
with responsibility for Science,
Department of Education
and Science),
3 Trinity Street,
Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire.
March 26.

From Professor Lord Bellow, FBA

Sir, As one who has frequently advocated greater financial support for basic scientific research, I am disposed to agree with the plea of Professor Nurse and his co-signatories. But I know of no reason to assume that a Labour government would prove more forthcoming. The growth industries of the twenty-first century will be knowledge-based and so automated and capital-intensive that only people trained in the highest standards in job-related and work-specific as well as research-oriented tertiary courses can look forward to a reasonably bright future.

Voters in the coming election who care about the prospects for their children and grandchildren should bear this in mind. In my opinion, only the Liberal Democrats really address the issue. Faced with the likelihood of a hung parliament, their educational policy should take top priority in any coalition pact. For once, political parties should put the future well-being of these islands above doctrinaire interests.

Young faithfully,
ALWYN WILLIAMS,
University of Glasgow,
Department of Geology
and Applied Geology,
Palaeobiology Unit,
8 Lilybank Gardens, Glasgow.
March 24.

From Mr Madron Seligman, MEP for Sussex West (European Democrat (Conservative))

Sir, Professor Nurse and his distinguished colleagues pose the right question but draw the wrong conclusions. Conservative policy with regard to expenditure on R&D has long been to encourage meaningful research in collaboration with industry. This country needs practical ideas which can be developed into commercially viable manufactured goods to meet the demand of world markets.

An article by your industrial editor, Philip Bassett, last year (May 21) showed that the Japanese government spends a lot less than the British government as a percentage of GDP. In contrast Japanese industry — undeniably successful — spends more than any other major industrial power. The UK came third after Germany in this context and ahead of the USA and France.

Long may our scientists continue to spend a few years working abroad. Their counterparts come to work here and the result is a valuable cross-fertilisation of ideas.

Yours faithfully,

CHRISTOPHER McKNIGHT,
17 Sandhurst Drive, Belfast 9.
March 23.

From Sir Abeyn Williams, FRS, FRSE

Sir, Much as I sympathise with the drift of the letter on election priorities for UK scientists, I am concerned by the way its authors have supported their case with the sort of statistics that normally belong to the hustings. I do not know whether the average

From Vice-Admiral Sir James Jungius

Sir, The chairman of British Gas joins the long list of captains of industry who have accepted obscene salary increases while their companies, their work forces, their customers and their country face severe economic difficulties.

Once again the same old excuse is trotted out. We are told that unless they are paid these enormous wages, we shall lose them to other jobs, perhaps in other countries. If that really is the case, and personal greed on a massive scale is the underlying and fundamental motivation for these people, then I suggest their departure would be no great loss.

There must be plenty of outstanding business men and women who would be delighted to take their place and lead a major company for half the salary; men and women who also understand that one of the first principles of leadership is "example".

Yours faithfully,
JAMES JUNGJUS,
Lewisham, Mylor Churchtown,
Falmouth, Cornwall.

From Mr M. G. Henley

Sir, Would the chairman of British Gas have resigned if the increase had not been awarded? If so, would it have mattered?

Why did he not go to a better position in the "international external market" two years ago when his salary was well under 50 per cent of its present level?

Yours faithfully,
M. G. HENLEY,
8 Ham Close,
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

Business letters, page 23
Sports letters, page 34

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

'Radical changes' in civil service

From the General Secretary of the Association of First Division Civil Servants

Sir, Your leading article, "The servant problem" (March 23), openly applauds the enduring strengths of the British civil service — "its transferable technology" available to any party of government, its apolitical character, and its tradition of the generalist. Sadly, however, you fail to acknowledge the radical changes in the civil service of the last few years.

Since 1989 over half the civil service, more than 250,000 individuals, have transferred into new organisations with new chief executives. What part of the private sector can match that flexibility or that speed of change? What part of the Inland Revenue in bringing in Western Europe on budget and on time? These changes are not "pompous". They have been swift, radical and efficient.

The civil service may not hire or fire on the open market, but neither do the largest private-sector companies — they grow their own directors and chief executives. The civil service recruits through clear rules of open competition — not through head-hunters or network links, the private-sector methods which have led to so pitifully few women and ethnic minorities in senior positions in the private sector.

It is the government, not the civil service, that has indulged in an "exotic" exercise in attempting to pay civil servants performance-linked pay; but crucially the government's crude methodology has laid them open to charges of sexual discrimination and possible legal challenge.

Most civil servants welcome the development of agencies, management flexibility, the promotion of those with ability, a freer exchange with the private sector, and improving services to the public. Many would welcome private-sector-style personal contracts — provided salaries reflect that change. But as you point out, to attract the right talent, competitive salaries must be offered. Civil servants will await with eagerness a *Times* editorial after the recommendations of the Top Salaries Review Body later this year.

Yours faithfully,
ELIZABETH SYMONS,
General Secretary,
The Association of First Division Civil Servants,
2 Caxton Street, SW1.
March 23.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 26: The Queen held an investiture at Buckingham Palace this morning.

Miss Elizabeth Pearce was received by the Queen when Her Majesty invested her with the insignia of a Lieutenant of the Royal Victorian Order.

The Queen this evening attended a reception at Claridge's hotel, Brook Street, London W1 to mark the centenary of the Association of Lancastrians in London, and was received by the President of the Association (Sir William Barlow) and the General Manager of Claridge's Hotel (Mr R Jones).

The Lady Susan Hussey, Mrs Robin Janvrin and Lieutenant-Colonel Blair Stewart-Wilson were in attendance.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 26: The Prince Edward, Chairman, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Special Projects Group, this evening attended a reception and dinner at the Palace of Holyroodhouse, given by the Savoy Group of Hotels and Restaurants in aid of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

His Royal Highness was received by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for the City of Edinburgh (Mrs Eleanor McLaughlin, the Rt Hon the Lord Provost).
Mrs Julian Tompkins was in attendance.

Mrs Richard Warburton was in attendance.

CLARENCE HOUSE
March 26: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother was present this evening at a reception at St James's Palace to mark the 70th anniversary of the London Fund for the Blind.

Dame Frances Campbell-Preston and Sir Martin Gilliat were in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
March 26: The Prince of Wales, President, The Prince's Trust, visited the Work, Sport and Leisure seminar week at the Warner Holiday Centre, Caister-on-Sea, Norfolk.

Mr Hugh Merrill was in attendance.

His Royal Highness departed from Norwich Airport this afternoon for a visit to Italy.

Mr Peter Westmacott and Mr Richard Arber were in attendance.

YORK HOUSE ST JAMES'S PALACE
March 26: The Duchess of Kent this afternoon visited the Royal Army Chaplain's Department Centre and was received by Colonel James Malcolm (Deputy Lieutenant of Surrey).

Mrs Julian Tompkins was in attendance.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
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His Royal Highness was received by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for the City of Edinburgh (Mrs Eleanor McLaughlin, the Rt Hon the Lord Provost).

Mrs Julian Tompkins was in attendance.

LUNCHEONS
Canada-UK Chamber of Commerce
Mr G.J. de Vries, Chairman of the European Parliament's delegation for relations with Canada, was the guest of honour and speaker at a luncheon of the Canada-United Kingdom Chamber of Commerce held yesterday at the London Marriott hotel. Mr Iain Hope, president of the chamber, was in the chair. The Canadian High Commissioner and HM High Commissioner to Canada were among those present.

HIGH SHERIFF OF GREATER MANCHESTER
Major David Wilson, High Sheriff of Greater Manchester, and Mrs Wilson were hosts yesterday at a luncheon held in the Crown Courts, Manchester. Those present were:

The Hon Sir Justice McKinnon, the Hon Sir Justice Maurice, Mr Alan H. Mr Justice Maurice, Mr Sam Arditt, Mr Roger Broadhurst, Mrs John Broadhurst, Mr John Kennedy, Mr Anthony Leon, Mr Robert Master, Mr Geoffrey Piper, Mr Michael Phillips, Mr Stuart Robinson and Mr Frank Smith.

NATIONAL SPORTING CLUB
Mr Dan Maskell was the guest of honour and speaker at a luncheon of the National Sporting Club held yesterday at the Café Royal, Mr Bob Willis, chairman, presided.

PARK TOWER LUNCHEON CLUB
The Park Tower Luncheon Club held a luncheon yesterday in Restaurant 101 Knightsbridge at the Sheraton Park Tower. Miss Georgina Sullivan, Public Relations Manager, was the host and the guests were Fiona Fullerton, Mike Carlton, Anne Naylor, Lieutenant-Colonel Peter Rogers, Michelle Derval and John Griffiths.

Service dinners
RN College Greenwich
Rear-Admiral D.K. Bawtree, Flag Officer Portsmouth, was the guest of honour at a mess guest night dinner held last night at the Royal Naval College Greenwich. Commander F.M. Searle, Commander of the College, presided.

ROYAL ARTILLERY
General Sir Martin Farndale, Master Gunner, St James's Park, presided at a Royal Artillery dinner held last night at their headquarters in Woolwich. The guests included:

The Australian Corps Commissioners and the 19th Field Commission for Malta and Mrs Margaret Denyer, Mrs and Mrs Patrick and Mrs Jenkins, the Editor of *The Times* and Mrs Jenkins, Brigadier and Mrs John Jenkins, Brigadier and Mrs F.A.J. Cordingley and the Master of Dulwich College and Mrs Verity.

Shrewsbury Drapers' Company
The following have been appointed officers of the Shrewsbury Drapers' Company for the ensuing year: Master, District Judge A.K. Freeman; Senior Warden, Dr Patrick Anderson; Junior Warden, Mr John Patrick.

BIRTHS
ANDREW - On March 16th in Berlin, to Wendy and Robert, a daughter, Daisy Victoria, and to Joanna and Peter, a son, Oliver d'Avreux, a brother for Sophie Victoria.

BYRNE - On March 22nd, at Pembury, to Marlene and Richard, a son, James.

CAMPBELL-NARRIS - On March 21st, in London, to Edward, a daughter, George, a sister for Steven.

ELLIS-WELL - On March 22nd, at St James's Palace, a lovely baby girl, Sarah.

FARRELL - On Friday March 20th 1992, at St Thomas Hospital, London, to Jo and Gerry, a son, Edward.

FRENCH - On March 21st, at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, Chelmsford, Pipper, a son, Simon, for William and Sarah.

GILLIOT - On March 26th, at Nepean Hospital, Sydenham, NSW, to Hazel and Martin, a son, Daniel.

HADJIPATERAS - On March 23rd at the Humans Hospital Wellington, to Harry and Karen, a daughter, Sophie.

KEANE - On March 26th at 11.01 am to John and Christine, a weighing 8lb 6oz baby girl.

KERR-SMILEY - On March 25th 1992, peacefully after a long and very courageous battle with cancer, Peter. Much loved husband to Valerie and father to Mike and Kevin. Funeral service at St Paul's Church, 30th March 1992 at 2pm.

LULLANDER - On March 26th at the Humans Hospital Wellington, to David and Linda, a son, Alexander.

KYDD - On March 25th, at the Humans Hospital Wellington, to David and Linda, a daughter, Charlotte.

MARSHALL - On March 22nd, at B.M. Rinteln, to Clare and Holstien and Luke, a son, Alexander.

MORTON - On Sunday March 22nd, to Jeanne and Robinson and Nigel, a son, James, a daughter, Emma, a daughter, Sophie.

RYAN - On March 24th at St Mary's Hospital, London, to Terence and Jane, a daughter, Emma, a daughter, Sophie.

A beautiful grandchild for Mr and Mrs C.E.B. DuCane of Pitney, Hampshire and Mr Thomas Ryan of Totnes, Devon.

SALEM - On March 23rd at the Humans Hospital Wellington, to Theresa and Emily, a daughter, Sophie.

A much-loved wife and a beautiful daughter, Chloe May.

DEATHS
DARLINGTON - On March 26th at the Thorne Heat Bank, Darlington, a son, David, a daughter, Sarah, a boy, Joshua Samuel.

SULAIMAN - On March 22nd at St Saviour's Church, Newgate, London, to Asiya, a daughter, Sabrina, granddaughter to Faiz and Mazina Sulaiman and other members of the diplomatic corps were among those present.

WALLACE - On March 13th, peacefully, Garry, aged 43. His remarkable charm and gentle manner will be sorely missed by daughters Anna and Claire, his wife Claire and relatives. Funeral held on March 20th at 1.30pm at St Paul's, Wavendon. Flowers or donations for The Royal Shetland Society, c/o G.C. Wallace, 56 Luton Rd, Luton, MK1 4QQ.

DOBBIN - On March 22nd, peacefully, Barry, aged 43. His dear wife, Sandra, and son, Barry, aged 15, will be greatly missed by daughters Debbie and Debbie, his wife Debbie and relatives. Funeral held on March 20th at 1.30pm at St Paul's, Wavendon. Flowers or donations for The Royal Shetland Society, c/o G.C. Wallace, 56 Luton Rd, Luton, MK1 4QQ.

MARSON - On Tuesday March 24th, peacefully at home, in his sleep, Ian (Bunty) Foote, dearly loved by family and friends.

Service of thanksgiving at St Paul's Church, Cheltenham, Our Lady, Sideshaw, at 1.30pm on Friday April 3rd. Donations if desired to Marie Curie Memorial Foundation.

GOUGH - On March 26th, peacefully at home, in his sleep, Patricia Gough, aged 84. Beloved mother of Adrian, Private cremation service at St Paul's, Cheltenham.

HOOTON - On March 22nd, peacefully at home, in his sleep, John Hooton, aged 82. Beloved husband of Maureen (nee Hammett), of Cheshire, and father of Adrian and Peter. Private cremation service at St Paul's, Cheltenham.

WOODS - On March 21st, peacefully at East Hall R.H. Sleights, John, aged 94, formerly of Elleray Road, Darlington, and a son of Janet Woods née Eddale, Father of Peter, Bernard, Michael and Christopher, headmaster of Kitale School, Kenya 1955-1956 and an old pavilion. Private cremation service at St Paul's, Cheltenham.

MCILLOUGH - On March 26th, peacefully at home, in his sleep, Brian McIllough, aged 84. Beloved wife of David and mother of Adrian. Private cremation service at St Paul's, Cheltenham.

YOUNG - On March 26th, peacefully at home, in his sleep, John Young, aged 84. Beloved husband of Janet Woods née Eddale, Father of Peter, Bernard, Michael and Christopher, headmaster of Kitale School, Kenya 1955-1956 and an old pavilion. Private cremation service at St Paul's, Cheltenham.

RICHARDSON - On March 24th 1992, Nancy, wife of Alan Richardson, died at her home. Service at St Mary of Bethany, Woking. Wednesday April 1st Burial at St Cross Cemetery, Elstree.

GUNNISON - On March 21st 1992, at home, in his sleep, the daughter of the late General Orlando and Mrs Cunningham, aged 82. Beloved mother of Jorge and Rosalind, and wife of John. Services at St Paul's, Chichester.

RICKIE - On March 17th, after a short illness, Cedric Arthur, aged 90. Beloved husband of Cedric and Caroline, and father of Jonathan and Amanda. Burial at Chichester Crematorium on Thursday 23rd April at 1.30pm.

ROBERTSON - On Sunday March 22nd at 1.30pm at a clinic in London, to John Ross, aged 67 years, much loved husband of Morlita and afterwards of Jonathan and Amanda. Memorial Service April 27th at St Brigid's, Fleet Street, London.

SPINNEY - On March 26th, peacefully at home, in Port Elizabeth, General Hospital, George, and father of Michael and Henry. Funeral Service at All Saints Church, Cheltenham.

HOPPER - On March 16th, in Port Elizabeth, after a short illness, Captain John Hopper, aged 67 years, much loved husband of Helen and Jonathan, and father of Jonathan and Amanda. Memorial Service April 2nd at St Brigid's, Fleet Street, London.

WYN GRIFFITH - Captain John F Wyn Griffith R.A., killed in a road traffic accident on March 26/27 1942 and buried in Hamburg with the crew of the aircraft in which he was flying a Spitfire. Donations if wished to The League of Remembrance, c/o H.J. and J. Williams Ltd, 100 High Street, Crediton, Devon.

CHAMPS - My mother Mary, Not forgotten, Muches love, Dinah, granddaughter of G. Hughes Joint Administrative Executives



George Cole, the actor, shows off his OBE presented at Buckingham Palace yesterday. Others receiving honours included Elisabeth Schwarzkopf, the operatic soprano, who became a Dame Commander of the British Empire

Dinners

Inner Temple

The Treasurer and Masters of the Bench of the Inner Temple last night entertained the Treasurer and Masters of the Bench of Gray's Inn to an Amity dinner.

EUROPEAN-ATLANTIC GROUP
The American Ambassador was the guest of honour at a dinner of the European-Atlantic Group held last night at the St Ermin's Hotel, London, to Andrew Keay, Mr Robert Master, Mr Geoffrey Piper, Mr Michael Phillips, Mr Stuart Robinson and Mr Frank Smith.

NATIONAL SPORTING CLUB
Mr Dan Maskell was the guest of honour and speaker at a luncheon of the National Sporting Club held yesterday at the Café Royal, Mr Bob Willis, chairman, presided.

PARK TOWER LUNCHEON CLUB
The Park Tower Luncheon Club held a luncheon yesterday in Restaurant 101 Knightsbridge at the Sheraton Park Tower. Miss Georgina Sullivan, Public Relations Manager, was the host and the guests were Fiona Fullerton, Mike Carlton, Anne Naylor, Lieutenant-Colonel Peter Rogers, Michelle Derval and John Griffiths.

RECEPTION

Association of Lancastrians in London

The Queen, as Duke of Lancaster and Patron of the Association of Lancastrians in London, was received by Sir William Barlow, president, at a reception held yesterday at Claridge's hotel to mark the association's centenary.

CHURCH NEWS

Appointments

The Rev John Andrews, Candidate Secretary to London City Mission (Southwark); to be Reader, Kingham and Churchill w Sarson and Daylesford (Oxford).

The Rev Godfrey Ashby, Assistant Bishop of Leicester; also to pastoral responsibility. Priest-in-charge (part-time) for the parish of Newtown Linford (Leicester) where he resides.

The Rev Michael Atkinson, Vicar, Chelmsford, All Saints to be Priest-in-charge, The Bardsfield and The Sailings (Chelmsford), The Rev Canon George Bartlett, Priest-in-charge, Panfield and The Stingers to be Priest-in-charge, Panfield and Rayne, at 11.30am (Chelmsford).

The Rev David Cant, Curate, Newcastle, Newcastle upon Tyne to be Assistant Curate, North Shields Team Ministry (Newcastle).

The Rev Kester Carruthers, Senior Chaplain, Royal Army Chaplains Department to be Reader, West Tanfield and Wren and Stow Snipe and Stow Snipe and North Stanley (Ripon).

The Rev John Cleaver, RE Advisor, London Diocesan Board for Schools to be Vicar, St Mary and St Alبان, Teddington (London).

The Rev Ian Colson, Vicar, Curate, Nunthorpe to be Assistant Curate, Thirsk-on-Tees Team Ministry (York).

The Rev Stephen Brown, Vicar, Thorner, and Officer for Local Ministry; to be Officer for Local Ministry, and Priest-in-charge, Ripley w Burnt Yards (Ripon).

The Rev Nicholas Calver, Curate, Christ Church, Ashton-under-Lyne (Manchester).

The Rev Revd Canon George Cartwright, Curate, St Paul's Forest Hill to be Priest-in-charge.

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LEGAL NOTICES

LEWISHAM MOTORS LTD

ON LIQUIDATION

NOTICE

TO THE CREDITOR

OF LEWISHAM MOTORS LTD

REGD. OFFICE:

NOTICE

TO THE CREDITOR

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OBITUARIES

HAROLD PROBYN

Air Commodore Harold "Daddy" Probyn, CVO, CBE, DSO, Commandant of RAF Cranwell during the last war, died in hospital in Kenya on March 24 aged 100. He was born on December 8, 1891.

IT WAS while "Daddy" Probyn was Commandant at Cranwell that the Gloster Whittle E28/39, Sir Frank Whittle's famous jet aircraft, made its first proper flight. It took the air on the evening of May 15, 1941, to the astonishment of all who saw it. Most of those spectators had no idea of what was being assembled in a fairly remote hangar on the RAF station. The appearance of the short, stubby machine at the end of a day's flying created a very considerable stir. This new structure which took off into the air had no propeller like any proper aircraft and its engine made an extraordinary sound: the sound of a jet.

Harold Melrose Probyn made a move in the first world war that was to affect the rest of his career. He was seconded in 1915 from the Royal Warwickshire Regiment to the Royal Flying Corps. Life above the ground suited him and two years later he won a DSO for conspicuous gallantry in France, which recognised the work he had done reconnoitring behind enemy lines. Aerial photography was an interest to him and he remained with him. He was also mentioned in despatches.

In between the wars he continued to be involved in air photography, was Senior Engineer Staff Officer, Middle East, and served at No 12

Fighter Group, RAF Hucknall. In 1939-40 he was Senior Air Staff Officer at the famous No 11 Fighter Group. At Cranwell "Daddy" Probyn had much to do with the training of Czech and Polish airmen who had managed to flee their countries after the German invasion.

Probyn, though a firm disciplinarian, was not one to ride around seated up in a staff car. He liked to set for himself and went about the station on a tall bicycle. Even mounted thus he expected — and got — a salute, which he returned with alacrity. The offensive spirit burned fiercely in him. He might have been too old to fly operationally during the war — hence his nickname — but Cranwell legend has it that he had access to a fighter aircraft and on one occasion used it to chase some German bombers who had presumed to fly too close to "his" aerodrome. True or not, the tale was much in character. Certainly to celebrate his retirement in the summer of 1944 he got hold of a Spitfire and flew it over Normandy.

Probyn retired to Nyeri in Kenya, where he started building his own aircraft, on one occasion borrowing the engine from his wife's Volkswagen. He refused to acknowledge that there came a age when flying should be no more. He was seen in a television newsreel marking his ninetieth birthday by taking a trip in a small aircraft he had built himself. Naturally, he was the pilot and, equally naturally, he flew solo.

He married in 1920 Marjorie, daughter of F. E. Savory. She died in 1961.

ISAIAH TISHBY

Professor Isaiah Tishbi, religious scholar and author of books on Jewish mysticism and messianism, died in Jerusalem on March 15 aged 83. He was born in Hungary in 1909.

ISAIAH Tishbi won acclaim for taking mystic medieval Jewish texts and interpreting them in a manner more easily comprehensible to modern man. A student of the foremost scholar in this field, the late Professor Gershom Scholem, Tishbi was widely recognised as his successor and the leading academic figure in research into the Cabala and Hassidism.

Two major trends have characterised Jewish religious thought throughout the centuries. The dominant one has been rationalism, as represented by the larger part of the Talmud and the commentary writings accompanying it. But there have also been adherents of mysticism seeking a path to knowledge through writings such as the *Sefer Yetzira* (the book of creation), the *Bahir* (brilliance) and the *Zohar* (splendor) which form the Cabala.

Cabbalists have sought to understand God, the mysteries of the universe and the role of man in the divine scheme of things by seeking to unlock what they believed to be "the hidden wisdom" in biblical texts. The very letters of the Hebrew alphabet, they believed, had numerical and magic powers which would work wonders if correctly combined into various words and ciphers and particularly into spelling out the true name of God.

Their fantasies and philosophies date back to ancient times, but became especially



attractive to the impoverished and persecuted Jewish communities in the middle-ages. The Cabbalists ultimately yearned to see the hastening of the messiah and the redemption of the Jewish people — but were drawn into paths of mysticism and superstition which only contributed to paving the way for a string of charismatic but false messiahs.

The most infamous of these was Shabbai Zvi who in the middle of the seventeenth century attracted a following of thousands, toured the courts of Europe, was even received by the Pope in Rome...then converted to Islam after being imprisoned

by the Turks. This betrayal of belief caused such shock and disillusionment among the Jewish masses that future self-styled messiahs were never able to gain any widespread following.

In the early eighteenth century however the Cabbalists were to produce yet another important religious mystic — Israel Ben Eliezer — born in Eastern Europe. The "Baal Shem Tov", or Master of the Good Name as he became known, was the founder of Hassidism — a religious movement which countered the confining and formalised religious practice of the time with a more open and joyful approach to Judaism. It is a movement which continues to attract tens of thousands of observant Jews today — and, which only recently saw the Hassidic followers of the famed Lubavitch Rabbi of New York urging Jews in Israel to "prepare for the coming of the messiah".

Tishbi's greatness lay in his ability to research the writings and medieval texts on these subjects and then to interpret and present them to modern students in a language they could easily understand.

Isaiah Tishbi was born in Hungary and arrived in Palestine in 1933. He began studying at the Hebrew University the following year while completing his necessary high school qualifications; at the same time, he studied Jewish philosophy, Cabbala, Hebrew literature, and the Bible and received a PhD in 1943 for his doctoral thesis on the Cabbala.

He excelled in providing intellectual explanations and modern translations of medieval texts in Hebrew and Aramaic, and was the first scholar, in the early 1940s, to edit and publish a work on the writings of the sixteenth-century Lurianic Cabbala of Sated.

Tishbi was appointed a senior lecturer at the Hebrew University in 1951 and rose to the rank of full professor of Jewish mysticism and ethical literature in 1959. Scholars consider his greatest contribution to be his volume work *Mishnat HaZohar* (The Wisdom of the Zohar) which has been translated into English and published by the Litman library of the Oxford University Press. Another outstanding achievement was his almost booklength entry in the Hebrew *Encyclopedia*, on the major trends of Hassidic thought.

In 1979 Tishbi received the prestigious Israel Prize for Jewish Studies. He was the recipient of many other awards for his research and writings — the last being the Gershom Scholem memorial prize of the Israel National Academy a month ago.

He was a visiting professor at several American universities and a visiting fellow at the Oxford Centre for post-graduate Hebrew studies.

Isaiah Tishbi is survived by his wife Esther and two sons.

LORD EVANS OF CLAUGHTON

Lord Evans of Claughton, Liberal Democrat spokesman on local government and housing in the House of Lords, died on March 22 aged 64. He was born on February 9, 1928.

"GRIFF" Evans was a stabilising force in Liberal politics throughout more than 30 years of constant change. His party's present strength and aspirations may be credited in no small measure to his influence. Evans was the archetypal party manager. He ran John Pardoe's campaign in the mid Seventies in the contest for the party's vacant leadership — chiefly because of Pardoe's deep grass-roots pedigree. But in 1977, as party president, he rallied behind the victorious David Steel and did much to restore unity and morale.

At the same time he neither evaded nor avoided controversy. It was he who, before the 1978 Southport assembly, advised Jeremy Thorpe, then facing criminal charges not to attend — thereby offending many loyal Liberals. The ousted leader turned up all the same, but Evans was later acknowledged to have been right.

He had never been an admirer of Thorpe's policies. As a young man, at one time president of the Young Liberals, Evans had been a vigorous critic of the leadership. But he was to become its most reliable lieutenant, defending it against left-wing unilateralists.

Evans's strength lay in his pragmatism and shrewdness. He understood that at local and national levels, a party had to win over the electorate. At the same time, while having little in common with the "woolly-hatted brigade" of the young Liberals, he valued their enthusiasm and industry and resisted those who wanted to expel them.

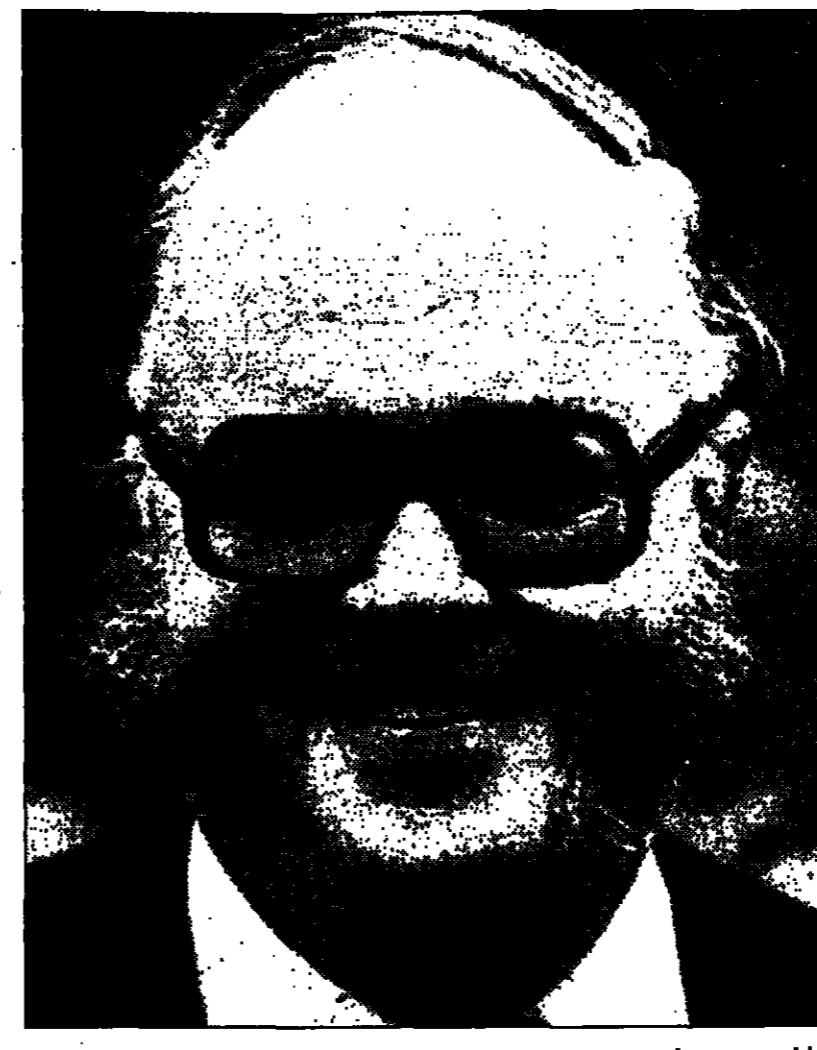
He would dearly have loved to be a Liberal MP. Three times he tried, once for his native Birkenhead and twice for Wallasey — where he stood against the Conservative minister Ernest Marples. In the end, like other frustrated leading Liberals, he settled for local government and the Lords.

He relished the rational debating in the latter, which he entered as a life peer in 1978. An articulate lawyer, and by that time extremely well versed in local politics, he proved a formidable opponent of both main parties. Had he belonged to either one of them himself, he would almost certainly have become an MP and won an important position on the front benches.

But Griff Evans's pragmatism was stiffened by principle and he could never have joined another party. He was an offspring of two Welsh Liberal families, though his mother, a graduate of Aberystwyth, was an Asquithian, while his Anglo-Saxon father's family backed Lloyd George. Griff could boast that his father really did Lloyd George.

Evans senior, a builder, had fought as a major in the Royal Welch Fusiliers on the Somme.

Although himself born in Birkenhead,



young Griff was very much a Welshman. He learned to speak Welsh before English as a child and still used it whenever he crossed into Welsh Wales.

He was educated at Birkenhead school, then Friars School, Bangor — where he was evacuated during the war — and was offered a university place at Oxford. He chose instead, however, to go to Liverpool where he graduated in law and, after two years as an RAF pilot officer, built up a successful solicitor's practice on Merseyside.

Merseyside was to become his Liberal fiefdom, from the day in 1957 when he astounded local Tories by winning a seat on Birkenhead borough council. He remained a member for 17 years, going on to raise the Liberal banner on Wirral borough council (1973-78) and Merseyside county council (1973-81).

Alongside his local government activities, he steadily advanced in the party hierarchy. He was secretary of the Lancashire, Cheshire and Northwest Liberal Federation 1956-60, chairman of the National League of Young Liberals 1960-61, chairman of the party's national executive 1965-68, of the assembly committee 1971-74, the general election committee 1977-79 and Liberal presi-

dent 1977-78. He acted as a consulting engineer on the forging of the Lib-Lab pact of 1977-78, although his experience of militant socialism in Liverpool made him more cautious than some of his southern colleagues. He also supported the alliance with David Owen's Social Democrats in 1987, despite his reservations about Owen's abrasiveness.

He was made a deputy lieutenant of Merseyside and a member of the court of Liverpool University while his many other interests included being a director of Granada Television and chairman of Mercher Sound independent radio in North Wales. He was also much in demand on Merseyside as a witty after dinner speaker.

He loved cricket and Welsh rugby — but resigned from the presidency of one rugby club in Wales when it accepted an invitation to tour South Africa. On the day before he died he was able to watch Wales on television regain a little of its former glory at Cardiff Arms Park. After his death it was the Welsh dragon which was flying at half-mast on the flagstaff outside his home.

Lord Evans is survived by his wife, Moira, and by their son and three daughters.

ARTHUR LEES

Arthur Lees, British Ryder Cup golfer four times between 1947 and 1955, died in Windsor yesterday aged 84. He was born in Sheffield on February 21, 1908.

PROFESSIONAL golf, indeed the game as a whole, has lost one of its richest characters with the death of Arthur Lees. Lees played in four Ryder Cup matches soon after the war. It was an era when the United States made a habit of overpowering any British team, but Lees emerged with his head high. He scored four points out of eight and recorded Britain's only two victories at Pinehurst, North Carolina, in 1951. He was twice sixth in the Open championship, in 1947 and again two years later.

In 1950 he finished second to Match-Play champion Dai Rees in the year's order of merit and in 1956, while suffering from a sprained left thumb, he shattered the course record at Stoneham, Southampton, with 65 in the southern qualifying section of the Match-Play championship, winning the southern professional championship with 135 from 36 holes.

A burly, free-hitting golfer with an unspectacular method, typical of a natural player, Lees believed in maximum results rather than theatrical showmanship. His successes were built upon his exceptional ability with his iron and, on his day, he was a phenomenal putter. Lees began his golfing career as a boy caddie at Lees Hall, Sheffield, where, at the age of 14 in 1923, he came under the wing of J. H. Atkinson. He developed rap-

idity and, after a seven year apprenticeship, took an appointment at Marienbad, Czechoslovakia. From there he returned to Sheffield and from the Dore and Totley club became a golf world personality. He was a late choice for the 1947 Ryder Cup team but two years later was an automatic selection.

Lees's reputation ripened in later years when his Yorkshire accent remained undiluted by close proximity to fashionable Sunningdale, where he was the club professional from 1949 to 1977.

"Nothing rubbed off on him," said Keith Almond, Sunningdale's secretary until last year. "And he was honoured for it."

He underwent an operation for cancer of the bladder 15 years ago and his life was in the balance, but an indomitable will carried him through and he survived several later crises.

Lees was an accomplished racqueteur and if some of his

stories seemed too tall at the time his exact repetition of them down to the last detail, year after year, testified to their authenticity. He seemed able to recall every golf shot he had ever played. He was never short of listeners as he held court in the Sunningdale club house or out on one of the two courses.

He was a wily opponent right up to 1989, when at last he had to put his clubs away.

Even with a shortened swing

he was something of a wizard around Sunningdale and was never known to refuse a bet.

A club stalwart remembered yesterday an occasion when Lees gave a four up start to Major Dot-Hender-

son, an American amateur

recently returned from a victory on the continent. All betting saw for one shrewd punter was on the American.

Lees then played the first nine holes of the Old course in 27 strokes and reached the turn three up. It was a bookie's bonanza.

When Lees joined Sunningdale soon after the war the club was in trouble, seriously short of members,

whereupon Lees, a man very much in the Fred Trueman, Harvey Smith mould, became a self-appointed recruiting agent. Some of his initiates, were not, perhaps, typical of Sunningdale, as we now know it, but at least they helped the club to recover from the ravages of hostilities.

He was much sought after as a coach, especially by good golfers. Those who enlisted his help included Dai Rees and Norman Von Nida, the eminent Australian.

Lees was a widower, is survived by his son.

GODFREY GOMPERTZ

Godfrey Gompertz, CBE, ceramics collector, died on March 12 aged 88. He was born on March 11, 1904.

GODFREY Gompertz, generally known as "G", was largely responsible for introducing the beauty and quality of Korean ceramics to a Western audience. Known and loved for many years by Japanese scholars and collectors, going back to masters of the tea ceremony who saw the sympathy between the simple style of their art and that of

the Korean pottery, they had only been revealed to the West in some of the work of Honey of the V&A until Gompertz published his *Korean Celadon* in 1963, and various exhibitions had aroused the interest of the public.

A connoisseur of the form and "feel" of a pot, Gompertz also met the highest standards of scholarship. *Chinese Celadon* had been published in 1958 and a new edition came out in 1980. After *Korean Celadon*, came both *Korean Pottery & Porce-*

lain of the Yi Period and *Celadon Wares* in 1968. He also joined with Dr Kim Che-won in 1961 in *The Ceramic Art of Korea*. Gompertz was born in Calcutta in 1904 of a family that served in India continuously from 1819 to 1946. After Bedford School he went to Sandhurst in 1922, but finding himself unadapted to the military life he joined Asiatic Petroleum and was posted to Japan. From there he was transferred to Korea, then under Japanese occupation.

Godfrey Gompertz is survived by his two sons.

APPRECIATIONS

Lt Cdr Peter Kemp



YOUR admirable obituary of Lieutenant Commander Peter Kemp (March 20) refers briefly to his wartime service in the Naval Intelligence Division.

He was, in fact, in charge of W/T Direction Finding in the Operational Intelligence Centre (OIC), an invaluable service, particularly before the Ultra material became available and, later, when it was vital to locate the source of an enemy transmission immediately before the message could be broken.

An outstanding example was his contribution to the *Bismarck* chase, and on many occasions his D/F plot led to diversions of convoys, enabling them to avoid gathering U-boat "Wolf Packs". On these occasions, of course, he worked in conjunction with Rodger Winn (the late Lord Justice Winn) in the U-boat tracking room — a formidable combination!

Peter's final contribution to the OIC was when he gave the address at the memorial service of Vice-Admiral Sir Norman Denning, who, as a Paymaster Lieutenant Commander had been the founder and mainstay of the OIC, described by Cornelius Barnett in his recent book *Engage the Enemy More Closely* as "the collective brain and

nerve centre of the whole war at sea". An inspired selection.

Captain F. V. Harrison.

THE Royal United Service Institute was fortunate in having Peter Kemp, as editor of the *RUSI Journal* from 1958 to 1968. He brought to this task, as to all his literary work, integrity, style, knowledge, wisdom, dedication — and wit. In making the transition from professional naval officer to professional writer he showed that, without prejudice to his enthusiasm for matters marine, he had a balanced approach to the contribution of all three services in the nation's defence. He set a standard which has been hard to maintain.

Vice-Admiral Sir Ian McGeoch

Prof Derek Lomax



MAY I add to your excellent obituary of Professor Derek Lomax (March 20). Professor Lomax was a valued member of the Confraternity of Saint James, a charity which promotes the pilgrimage routes to Santiago de Compostela in north-west Spain, and chaired its research working party at the University of Birmingham for the past four years. His hospitality on these occasions — he personally provided lunch for up to 15 people — his friendliness and quiet humour endeared him to specialist and non-specialist alike. The Confraternity was privileged to publish his paper on the Order of Santiago in 1

• BUSINESS NEWS 19-25
• INFOTECH TIMES 32,33
• SPORT 34-38

THE TIMES BUSINESS

FRIDAY MARCH 27 1992

BUSINESS EDITOR JOHN BELL

TODAY IN BUSINESS AU REVOIR

Time may be running out for Edith Cresson and the protectionist industrial policies of France's socialist government after more than a decade

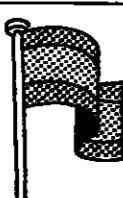
Page 23

RIGHT BITE

From Burger King to Buckingham Palace, Booker ensures that plates are never empty. But the recession is changing eating habits

Page 21

SHOWING OFF



Spain is using Expo in Seville and the Olympics in Barcelona to show off what it has achieved since Franco died in 1975

Focus, pages 27-31

TOMORROW

PROFILE



John Grieves, senior partner at Freshfields, the law firm, runs 40 miles a week and looks the part. Despite his success he never travels first class

CALL FOR HELP

Customer complaints are swamping financial ombudsmen who need extra staff to cope with appeals for a fair deal

THE POUNDS

US dollar 1.7260 (-0.0027)
German mark 2.8600 (+0.0004)
Exchange index 90.1 (same)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKETS

FT 30 share 1938.3 (+8.4)
FT-SE 100 2472.2 (+7.3)
New York Dow Jones 3268.56 (+1.7)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge 1985.49 (-341.29)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 10.4%
3-month Interbank 10.4%-10.5%
3-month eligible bills: 10.4%-10.5%
US: Prime Rate: 6.1%
Federal Funds: 4.1%
3-month Treasury Bills: 4.00%-3.98%
30-year bonds: 100%-100%

CURRENCIES

London: Bank Base: £1.7224
£ DM2.8628
£ SWF2.8128
£ FRF7.080
£ Yen 120.1
\$ Index=50.1
ECU 0.714166
£ ECU1.400234
London: foreign market close

GOLD

London Fixing:
AM \$340.75 pm-\$340.40
close \$340.80-\$41.30 (£197.40-
197.90)
New York:
Comex \$340.85-\$41.35*

NORTH SEA OIL

RPI: 126.3 February (1987-100)
* Denotes midday trading price

1X

Rowland personally sets up cash deal with Tripoli state firm

Libya pays £177m for Lonrho hotel stake

BY COLIN CAMPBELL

ROLAND "Tiny" Rowland, the 74-year-old chief executive of Lonrho, has personally negotiated a £177.5 million cash deal with the Libyan Arab Foreign Investment Company (Lafico) that gives Colonel Gaddafi's government a third stake in five British hotels under the Metropole Hotels (Holdings) banner, shareholders heard yesterday.

The Lonrho-Libya connection was announced as the UN Security Council was considering sanctions against Libya over the Lockerbie bombing, and made public only hours ahead of Lonrho's annual meeting.

René Leclezio, Lonrho's chairman, and in one of many passionate defences of Mr Rowland's abilities and age, said the deal was "Mr Rowland's personal achievement". The chairman told a shareholder: "I do not know your age. But I doubt if you could have followed Mr Rowland through the negotiations." Paul Spicer, a deputy chairman, said: "We did not plan the timing for the day of the UN debate. We have been in talks for weeks. We will not say who initiated it. It was a commercial deal. We have no political aspirations. Deals do just come together and happen in Africa".

Mr Spicer said the £177.5 million arrived in the bank late on Wednesday, and a letter of confirmation from a clearing bank was received yesterday morning.

Lafico acquires a third share of an enlarged capital in a hotel chain owning hotels in London, Birmingham, Brighton and Blackpool, and whose book value of net assets at the end of September totalled £393 million. Lafico has the right to appoint two out of eight of Metropole's directors. There are limited rights concerning "specified major

matters" affecting Metropole. Lonrho emphasised that Metropole will continue to be managed by its directors and employees, and "ownership and control still ultimately rest in Lonrho". Metropole, totally owned by Lonrho, is issuing new shares for the arrangement with Lafico, which therefore imputes a total valuation on Metropole of £570.5 million. Lafico thus pays £177.5 million for a third stake valued at £190.2 million.

Some City analysts said they were "unimpressed" with the Libyan connection, but conceded that "cash is cash", and Lonrho needs all the help it can get. "Debt is Lonrho's Achilles heel," one said.

Interest savings by Metropole will eventually work through to Lonrho. However, the statement makes clear that the £177.5 million cash injection will be "ring fenced", and will be used to help reduce Metropole's borrowings.

Lonrho's net debt was £1.095 billion at the end of September, and after asset sales made since then, including a half share in a German freight company, analysts had assumed net debt had fallen to £750 million. The stock market was, therefore, unsettled yesterday when Mr Leclezio gave a qualified answer that Lonrho's net debt would now be reduced to £500 million — implying there had, since year-end, been a £100 million cash outflow. Mr Spicer said that in the past six weeks Lonrho had secured commitments, through asset sales, that meant £400 million "is coming in one way or another", and reiterated that gearing would fall from 70 per cent to around 55 per cent. Lonrho shares rose 5p to 108p, only to fall to 95p.

Comment, page 23



Happy with the personal touch: Tiny Rowland did the deal yesterday to sell an interest to the Libyans

Tiny marches to the millennium

THE Barbican Hall does not have the sumptuous ambience of the Grosvenor House, Park Lane, but its rafters rang with praise for Tiny Rowland, Lonrho's chief executive. (Colin Campbell writes).

Mr Rowland, like the Johnny Walker man, is going marching on into the next millennium. René (Mr Sugar) Leclezio, the chairman, told the gathering of Tiny's faithful shareholders:

"It is nonsense to say he is too old. He is our one hope of survival. Tiny is the jewel in the crown." Mrs Adams rang in the immortal line: "It has been a year of celebrations at Lonrho estates".

Yesterday's annual meeting was pre-charged with City anger in the wake of 1991's pre-tax profits setback and the cut dividend. However, though there was the odd barbed comment from individual shareholders, no collective City voice emerged.

It was the first annual meeting with Mr Leclezio in the chair, after years of Sir Edward du Cann. Mr Sugar admitted he was no par-

liamentarian. He has a Maurice Chevalier voice, and might as well have sung the Mary Poppins' ditty "A spoonful of sugar helps the medicine go down".

The curtain-raiser was a 37-minute film on Lonrho's sugar estates that included the immortal line: "It has been a year of celebrations at Lonrho estates".

Had the concert hall lights not been dimmed, and had the 1991 profit and loss account been on every shareholder's lap, there might have been boozing.

Mr Leclezio, however, having fired another broadside at the press for a "persistent and misleading campaign of hysteria" after the results announcement, raised broad smiles when he said that in France there was an old Arab saying: *Les chacals aboient, la caravan passe* ("Let the jackals bark, the caravan car-

ries on"). At one point, Mr Rowland himself was challenged to speak. "Will Mr Rowland stand up and tell us...". The silver head of Mr Rowland had already started to shake "no" before the questioner had finished.

René came to the rescue. "Tiny does not talk," he said. "He acts. And you have seen his act!"

Mr Rowland, we were told yesterday, had personally achieved the deal with the Libyans, and had done many great and good works for Lonrho.

At long last, and I am pleased to tell you largely due to the efforts of our chief executive, seems almost certain that peace will be achieved in Mozambique in the next few months."

Tiny said not a word during the 75-minute meeting. But then he never has.

Labour will hit foreign firms

BY WOLFGANG MONCHAU

FOREIGN companies and their foreign employees would be among the hardest hit by Labour's tax plans, according to an analysis by Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte, the financial consultant.

Foreigners are badly hit because they tend to earn high incomes. Labour will not only levy higher taxes and national insurance (NI) on total income, but will also continue with not allowing special treatment.

Japanese and Koreans, who, unlike Americans, do not have reciprocal agreements with Britain on NI, would be hit hard. Not only would they pay NI on total salary, but are unlikely ever to have a British pension.

Also, the companies tend to negotiate with these employees on an after-tax basis. If taxes rise, the company pays. They are then taxed on the amount by which they compensate employees for higher taxes, thus paying tax on tax. But over 13 years of Tory government, Britain has lost its tax attraction for foreigners as special treatment was removed, though this was offset by top rate cuts.

Under Labour, foreigners would not only suffer higher taxes but also continuation of this regime. Continental countries have generous tax regimes for foreigners, via allowances or reduction in amount of taxable income.

Foreigners had the best tax treatment under the last Labour government. One earning £100,000 would retain 51 per cent under John Smith. But under Denis Healey, he would have kept 82 per cent in 1979 via legal tax loopholes.

In 1979, a foreigner was liable for tax on 50 per cent of income. The special allowance was cut from 50 to 25 per cent in 1987 and ended in 1989. Thus, a single earner on £80,000 paid tax and NI of £16,213 in 1986/7, £27,584 in 1987/89, £28,763 today, but £37,942 under Labour. John Andrews, head of tax at Coopers & Deloitte, said this could be solved by reintroducing special treatment.

Health clash, page 1
Electron 92, pages 7-11
An incurable case, page 14
Diary, page 14
Leading article
and letters, page 15
LET section, pages 4 and 5

Redland wins Steetley

BY JONATHAN PRYNN

THE last big outstanding takeover bid in the City came to a close yesterday afternoon with Redland claiming victory at the end of its 115-day battle for Steetley, its rival building materials group.

The £613 million offer went unconditional when Redland announced that it had received acceptances for 60 per cent of Steetley's shares by the 1pm deadline. Redland had offered 87 shares for every 100 Steetley shares or a 365p cash alternative.

Although the institutions ultimately strongly backed the Redland bid, the outcome of the battle was far from clear until as late as Wednesday morning when Redland had received only 2 per cent acceptances and had made no market purchases of Steetley's shares. Sir Colin Cor-

recession in the construction industry and by the promise of Redland that the integration of the two businesses will yield £13 million of cost savings. Steetley's case was not helped by a series of setbacks to its defence, including the blocking of a proposed joint venture with Tarmac.

Officially, the Steetley board was advising shareholders to "take no further action" until a formal recommendation has been made.

However, the preparations for an orderly handover have been begun by the Steetley team. "This was in no way the result Redland expected," one Steetley adviser said. "They were expecting to walk this and they haven't."

Comment, page 23

Boost in sales lifts Wellcome

STRONG growth in the volume of sales of Zovirax, the herpes drug and Retrovir, the anti-Aids treatment, helped Wellcome boost pre-tax profits by 35 per cent to £345 million in the half year to February 29. Interim dividend rises a third to 4p from earnings up 33 per cent to 17.5p per share.

Growth of some 13 per cent in the volume of drug sales helped lift sales by 22 per cent to £891 million. Research and development spending increased by 23 per cent to £127 million.

Wellcome Trust plans to sell much of its 74 per cent holding this summer. Wellcome shares rose 13p to 1,012p.

Tempus, page 22

Chelsea scores against landlord

BY MATTHEW BOND

THE Roker man might have put paid to Chelsea Football Club's FA Cup ambitions, but Ken Bates, Chelsea's indefatigable chairman, still hopes for a big win to round off the season.

Yesterday, he moved a step closer to it by buying a 27 per cent stake in Cabra Estates, the quoted property company that owns Chelsea's Stamford Bridge ground and wants the club to pay £23.8 million for the freehold or face eviction by the end of the season.

Like the goal that ensured Chelsea's FA Cup exit, Mr Bates left his move until the 89th minute. His purchase of 26 million Cabra shares from Dr Ashraf Marwan, the



Cabra's share price. Before the deal was announced, the shares were worth 79p each, valuing Dr Marwan's stake at £1.8 million. Afterwards, a 2p rise indicated a value of £2.3 million. However, it is believed that Dr Marwan might have received close to £3 million.

The shares have not been bought by Chelsea but by Vanbrugh, a shell company.

However, there was frantic activity at Stamford Bridge yesterday, ahead of today's deadline for transfers. Three players were hastily dis-

patched in what looked like a fund-raising exercise.

Chelsea appeared to have raised about £1.2 million by loaning Jason Cundy to Tottenham Hotspur and by sell-

ing Cliv Allen to West Ham for £275,000 and Kevin Wilson to Notts County for £200,000.

Having secured the Cabra stake, Mr Bates promptly called for an extraordinary meeting, at which he will seek the removal of John Duggan, chairman, and Andrew Mackay, MP for Berkshire East and a Cabra director.

Mr Duggan declared himself puzzled by Mr Bates's move. He said that even if Cabra accepted Vanbrugh's call for seats on the board, conflict of interest would prevent Mr Bates voting on any matter relating to Chelsea.

Cabra directors meet today to discuss the proposals.

Transfer report, page 38

Airline of the Year 1992.

In addition to winning the Airline of the Year award for the second year running, we were also voted Best Transatlantic Airline, Best Business Class, Best Long-Haul Airline, Best Inflight Entertainment, Best Airline Ground and Check-in Staff, and Best Food by the readers of Executive Travel Magazine.

For full details of our award-winning flights phone us on 0800 747 747 or see your travel agent.



Morgan Grenfell profits increase

By NEIL BENNETT
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

MORGAN Grenfell, the London merchant banking subsidiary of Deutsche Bank, increased pre-tax profits by 21 per cent to £5.6 million in 1991 — a year when it returned to the top of the mergers and acquisitions league table.

John Craven, Morgan's chairman, confirmed that the bank is planning to merge its futures and options business with its parent. This will mean that Morgan and Deutsche will trade as one team on Liffe. But the rest of the bank's operations would remain independent.

During the year, Morgan benefited from contributions from two of its newest subsidiaries, development capital and Third World debt trading. Development capital has now raised funds of £175 million and organised several management buy-outs, including Taunton Cider and Bristol Helicopters.

Michael Dobbs, chief executive, said that the banking division remains Morgan's most profitable operation, despite some bad debt provisions. The bank is increasing its lending operations.

The corporate finance business worked on 11 public takeovers in Britain last year, worth £2.4 billion, putting it top of several league tables. Mr Dobbs said that 60 per cent of transactions the bank advised on were cross-border, compared with only 16 per cent in 1987. These included several prominent German clients, such as Continental in its defence against Pirelli and RWE-DEA's \$1.2 billion takeover of Vista Chemical in America.

Asset management, Morgan's other main business, provided around one quarter of the profits, growing by 21 per cent to £16.2 billion. During the year Morgan also continued its retreat from the equity markets by transferring CJ Lawrence, its American research-based broker, to Deutsche. Mr Craven said that Morgan intended to keep its profitable equities business in Singapore and Hong Kong.

BY MATTHEW BOND

SLOUGH Estates, Britain's fourth biggest property company, reports pre-tax profits of £31.6 million for 1991, but only after adding £52.3 million of interest charges to the balance sheet value of developments still in the course of construction.

The amount of interest "capitalised" in this way was above the expectations of analysts, who have kept the company under close scrutiny since the departure of Graeme Elliot, Slough's vice-chairman, a fortnight ago. With property values still under pressure, the practice of capitalising interest is viewed with mounting concern.

Accounting regulations require developments to be held in the balance sheet at the lower of cost or net realisable value. Judging how much interest can be safely added to the cost of a development can be difficult at a time when property values are falling.

Having added £52.3 million of interest to the balance sheet, only £27.4 million of Slough's total interest bill of £79.7 million passed through the profit and loss account, enabling the company to report a 40 per cent increase in pre-tax profits and earnings per share of 8p, which partially covers the total dividend of 11.5p (11.35p).

Paying a maintained final dividend of 7.15p required a £10.1 million transfer from reserves, the second year running; a transfer has been re-

Decline in demand takes toll on APV

By OUR CITY STAFF

A DECLINE in worldwide demand and tighter net margins took their toll on profits at APV, the food processing equipment maker.

Pre-tax profits fell 23.4 per cent to £30.8 million in the year to end-December, on turnover down 5.8 per cent to £874.4 million.

Sales to customers outside the United Kingdom account for more than 80 per cent of the group's turnover. APV

said that demand was frustrated by orders for food and drinks processing machinery from Russia and eastern Europe being held back by difficulties in organising funding.

Sir Peter Cazalet, the chairman, said that the depressed worldwide economic environment had discouraged many of APV's customers from undertaking major capital investments.

While the food and beverage sector is resilient, in the economic environment which prevailed there was a tendency to defer capital expenditure."

Neil French, finance director, said that APV's order intake for the second half of 1991 did not repeat the sharp decline experienced in 1990, with 1991's full year order intake 5 per cent higher than 1990.

The order book for 1992 is 15 per cent above the level for the previous year.

Operating profits from the dry food division fell to £10.9 million (£19.2 million), on

turnover down to £278.5 million (£340.7 million). The decline in profits was exacerbated by a £3 million exceptional charge, mainly relating to restructuring and redundancy costs. Closure and restructuring costs led to an extraordinary debit of £3.1 million.

The final dividend is maintained at 3.4p, giving shareholders an unchanged total of 5.4p for the year. Earnings dropped from 9p a share to 6.9p. The shares fell 8p to 108p.

Earnings rise from 16.09p a share to 19.76p, with fully diluted earnings accelerating 21.8 per cent to 18.49p. Paul Smidley, at Kleinwort Benson, forecasts current year pre-tax profits of £83 million, giving fully diluted earnings of 21.5p. The shares advanced 12p to 325p.

Takings at Morrison reach new record

By PHILIP PANGALOS

GROSS takings at Morrison Supermarkets have broken through the £1 billion mark for the first time.

The Bradford-based supermarket group saw pre-tax profits advance by 24.6 per cent to £52.6 million in the year to February 1, on sales ahead 22.9 per cent to £1.12 billion.

The figures, excluding new stores, showed takings ahead 7.8 per cent. Average sales per square foot, excluding petrol and VAT, rose 7.4 per cent to £11.60 per week.

Martin Ackroyd, Morrison's finance director, said the group benefited from its decision to absorb last year's increase in VAT on all of its grocery and non-food items until the end of last year.

"We believe supermarket retailing is still a lot to do with price," Mr Ackroyd said. Low prices are a major influence in getting people into the stores, he added.

Four new stores were opened during the period, bringing the total number to 53. The group has opened two new stores in 1992, with a total of 59 stores expected to be operational by the end of the year. The sales area increased by about 10 per cent.

Net interest payments were reduced from £4.87 million to £3.78 million. Gearing, aided by the proceeds from last year's £97.5 million rights issue, stood at about 12 per cent at the year-end, against 60 per cent previously.

Profits on land sales led to an exceptional gain of £993,000. Shareholders will receive an increased final dividend of 1.6p (1, giving an improved total of 2p for the year, against 1.55p previously, beating the 1.9p total forecast at the time of the rights issue).

Earnings rise from 16.09p a share to 19.76p, with fully diluted earnings accelerating 21.8 per cent to 18.49p. Paul Smidley, at Kleinwort Benson, forecasts current year pre-tax profits of £83 million, giving fully diluted earnings of 21.5p. The shares advanced 12p to 325p.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Cannon Street dives to a loss of £34.9m

CANNON Street Investments, the mini conglomerate, dived to a loss of £34.9 million last year and has abandoned its final dividend after heavy asset write-downs and interest costs.

The group intends to continue its disposal programme to reduce debts, and is thought to be looking for a buyer for its hotel division, which includes Craignardroch, the Scottish timeshare park. CS's losses were caused by a £34.5 million exceptional write-down on its hotels, building materials business, fork lift truck distributor and to glazing division. Operating profit slumped 60 per cent to £11.1 million as almost all of the company's 40 operating subsidiaries were hit by the recession. Since the end of the year the group's debts have fallen by more than half to £45.3 million, thanks to the flotation of Avonside, the house builder, and the sale of most of the group's stake in Betacom, the telephone distributor. The group has now appointed Tom Long, a former BAT director, as chairman.

Kynoch calls for cash

G & G KYNOCH, which recently moved from textiles to health care, is making a two-for-three rights issue, at 36p a share, to raise £2.6 million. The proceeds will fund the acquisition of Astec Environmental Systems, which makes fume cupboards, and certain assets of Peteric, a manufacturer of biological safety cabinets. Kynoch reported pre-tax profits of £851,000 in the 16 months to December 31, against a loss of £983,000 in the previous 12-month period.

Turnover, boosted by acquisition, was £17.9 million (£4.02 million). Again, there is no dividend.

Exports boost Jeyses

A SIXTY per cent growth in exports, mainly to the Far East, helped Jeyses Group, the maker of cleaning and hygiene products, to a 17 per cent rise in full year profits. Pre-tax profits advanced to £4.18 million in the year to end-December and turnover rose by 19 per cent to £61.8 million. The final dividend is raised to 3.8p (3.2p), giving a total of 6.4p for the year, against 5.4p previously. Earnings climb from 12.4p a share to 19.6p. Shares firmed 1p to 43.8p. Jeyses is acquiring two brands of wipes from SmithKline Beecham.

Pillsbury joint venture

GRAND Metropolitan's Pillsbury subsidiary and Archer Daniels Midland, an American company, have reached agreement in Minneapolis, Minnesota, to create a flour-milling joint venture under which Pillsbury will receive 56.5 million. The 50-50 joint venture will be called ADM/TPC Milling. Pillsbury said the partnership will increase productivity, reduce costs and ensure a supply of high-quality flour to Pillsbury. ADM will manage and operate the mills, which are in four states.

TSB makes progress

THE TSB Group's bad debt provisions will show a marked decline this year despite worsening problems in the mortgage subsidiary, Sir Nicholas Goodison, the chairman, told the annual meeting. Bad debt provisions at Hill Samuel in particular would be much lower than last year. These were the main cause of the bank's £47 million loss last year. However, Mortgage Express, the mortgage business that was already being wound down, was suffering as house prices in the South-East continued to fall.

BUSINESS TO BUSINESS

GENERAL

Who says you can't be a £50,000 a year manager?

The Internationally Known publisher of Total Quality Management reports that anyone of at least average intelligence can make it to the top in business.

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INTERNATIONAL APPOINTMENTS

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Telecommunications Industry

Major Change Role

Fiji Posts and Telecommunications was changed from a Government Department to a company two years ago. Significant technical advancements have been made since then. The company has a \$50m turnover and 1500 staff, and is now entering a major growth phase in a country of three quarters of a million people.

The Board is seeking to appoint a Chief Executive to work with the management team to effect further significant change:

- * increased commercial focus
- * a strong customer focus
- * improved financial performance
- * position the company to exploit emerging telecommunications technologies

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BUSINESS ROUNDUP
London Street dives
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Entertaining cuts dent growth in profit at Booker

BY JON A什WORTH

THE recession is encouraging people to eat at home. Booker, the food group that supplies many of Britain's caterers, felt the pinch last year as pre-tax profits virtually stood still at £103.9 million (£102.9 million).

Jonathan Taylor, the chief executive, said a decline in dining out had "significantly" affected the group's catering revenue. Food distribution was behind more than half of Booker's profit last year, and sales to caterers

made up 40 per cent of the division's total. The company's customers range from Burger King to Buckingham Palace.

Mr Taylor said that hotels, restaurants and other traditional clients were cutting back on their order books because fewer people were dining out.

In addition, the group has been forced to raise its provisions against bad debts to £4.5 million, a threefold increase on the previous period.

because of the impact that the recession is having on its smaller customers.

Fitch Lovell, the food producer and distributor acquired in 1990 for £302 million in cash, is at last beginning to pay its way.

Food distribution saw pretax profits rise from £57.9 million to £65.6 million, largely on the back of Fitch Lovell's contribution.

However, the need to issue shares to help finance the Fitch Lovell acquisition, coupled with the effects of the recession, has prompted a 13 per cent decline in earnings per share from 41.9p to 36.3p.

The company's debt has been reduced by just under a third from £199.3 million to £138.2 million. A final 14.25p dividend of makes 21.75p for the year (net of tax credit) against 21.25p in 1990.

Dividends last year realised £64.7 million. Gearing has fallen to 71 per cent compared with 112 per cent the previous year.

Booker is in the process of refocusing the company's divisions, which range from food distribution and agriculture to fish and prepared foods.

The sale of Kingswood-GK, a chemist chain, and Holland & Barrett, the health food shops, to Lloyds Chemists in April 1991 raised £37.5 million. Booker Nutritional Products was sold for £11.4 million in September, and the sale of P. Leiner, an American nutritional products business, is expected to raise £24 million. The sale is due to be completed next month.

The agribusiness, which includes salmon farming and turkey breeding, added £21.6 million; health products contributed £6.8 million and the fish and prepared foods division added £17.1 million.

The group has pulled out of salmon farming in Canada and France at a cost of £23 million, and taken its first step into food distribution in continental Europe by investing £13.6 million in a cash and carry business in Portugal.

Stingy internal cash flow allowed net borrowings to be reduced by £20 million to £20.1 million, while shareholders' funds rose by 29.9 million to £179.6 million.

The company said that the Pan Gas project set up to invest in central European liquid petroleum gas markets, made "an encouraging start", and had already formed joint ventures in Poland and Slovakia.

There was also an agreement to establish a venture in Hungary.

Mild winter pegs payout at Calor

BY JONATHAN PRYNN

MILD winter weather and the continuing recession in the UK has led Calor Group, the liquid petroleum gas supplier, to maintain its dividend — despite a 16 per cent advance in pre-tax profits last year.

The final payout was pegged at 6p, making an unchanged 12p for the year. Michael Davies, the chairman, said that the decision reflected "both the current trading performance and the

City cheers for Coats Viyella

The City reacted with enthusiasm to the first set of full year figures from Coats Viyella, the textiles group, since its £250 million hostile takeover of Tootal in May last year.

Shares in Coats were marked up 9p to 189p on the announcement of a 10 per cent advance in pre-tax profits from £101.4 million to £111.4 million for the year to end-December. Turnover was up from £1.83 billion to £1.95 billion.

The figures indicated seven months of trading from Tootal, but the profit contribution from the new businesses was not broken down. The final dividend was held at 4p, making an unchanged 7p for the year. Dividend cover was 1.4 times.

Neville Bain, the chief executive, said he believed improvement was possible in 1992. The divisions hit hardest by the adverse trading conditions were yarns and fabrics, which saw operating profits slump from £14 million to £1.6 million, and fashion retail where profits fell from £10.2 million to £4.4 million.

Tempus, page 22

Burmah rises

BY OUR CITY STAFF

UNITED Newspapers, publisher of the *Daily Express*, suffered an 11 per cent drop in pre-tax profits last year to £85.2 million due to a fall in advertising and sales. Lord Stevens of Ludgate, the chairman, said the results illustrated the depth and the extent of the recession and were not unreasonable in the circumstances.

The fall in profits includes a loss of £1 million from *Punch* magazine which the group decided earlier this week will close in two weeks unless a buyer is found.

Graham Wilson, the managing director, said he did not expect to find a buyer, but that it would be nice for one to appear. He said there were no other plans for closures among the group's 25 consumer and 75 business titles.

United is holding its final

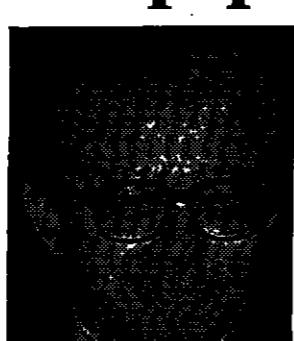
Stevens: 11% profit fall

dividend at 13.5p to make an unchanged 21p for the year.

The group's magazine division incurred most of the fall in profits, as it slipped 28 per cent to £21.4 million due to the fall in advertising revenue.

Mr Wilson said advertising volumes had decreased by 15 per cent. The group closed several titles during the year but bought others in America.

United Newspapers slides



Playing the market: Michael Bucher, left, and Paul Lipscomb with a video "friend" from Atmosfear, a new game

Scrabble maker surges

BY OUR CITY STAFF
J.W. SPEAR & SONS, the maker of Scrabble and other toys and games, has reported an 80.5 per cent surge in

Ciba-Geigy delivers 24% rise

BY WOLFGANG MUNCHAU, EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

CIBA-GEIGY is among the first of the international chemicals and pharmaceutical giants to have emerged from the depression in the industry, with a hefty 24 per cent rise in net profits to SF1.28 billion (£492 million) in 1991.

The rise in profits stemmed mainly from the company's pharmaceutical and agricultural business, which accounts for 60 per cent of sales. The industrial chemicals sector is depressed, however, with sales down by 4 per cent and with no sign of a significant improvement this year.

Alex Krauer, chairman of the board of directors, said in London: "There is no upswing in sight except in the US where we can see the first timid signs of recovery in our industrial division." The fall is even a version in Braille.

Michael Bucher, managing director, said that the results were highly satisfactory in the face of difficult market conditions.

Paul Lipscomb, finance director, said: "The United Kingdom held up very well. We've actually seen an upturn in sales." He added that the group was hoping to benefit from new products including Atmosfear, a new interactive video game which is about to be launched and will retail at about £25. "It has had a very good reception at toy fairs," Mr Lipscomb added.

There is a final dividend of 8p, giving shareholders a total of 10p for the year, against 8p previously. Earnings rise from 17.9p a share to 32.3p. The shares jumped 15p to 295p.

in industrial chemical sales was more than compensated for by an 18 per cent rise in the agricultural business and a 10 per cent rise in pharmaceuticals.

Dr Krauer also announced a "shareholder-friendly share capital increase". Under the scheme, shareholders will be entitled to one new share for every 25 shares held. The price will about two thirds of the share price in early May, and it is thought the issue will raise about SF490 million.

Ciba-Geigy spent SF12.19 billion on research and development, or 10.4 per cent of sales, a level which the company is committed to maintain this year.

Capital expenditure was down 5 per cent to SF1.96 billion, and will remain at this level. The dividend goes up by SF5 to SF65 per share and participation

The final dividend of 2.2p made a barely covered 4p payout for the year, a 32 per cent reduction on 1991.

Analysts said they welcomed the measures taken by the new management and have pencilled in profits of between £42 million and £46 million for the current year.

"Continuing efforts to reduce operating costs and working capital will place the Group in a strong position to benefit from an upturn in the world economy."

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

For the year ended 31 December	1991	1990
Turnover	£874.4m	£928.1m
Return on sales before exceptional items	4.7%	5.8%
Profit before tax	£30.8m	£40.2m
Earnings per ordinary share	6.9p	9.0p
Dividends per ordinary share	5.4p	5.4p
Shareholders' funds	£138.1m	£138.1m

THE YEAR IN BRIEF

- Reduced operating costs and improved control over working capital limit profit decline in competitive environment.
- Financially strong with gearing at 42% and interest cover at five times.
- Maintained final dividend of 5.4p per ordinary share.
- 5% higher order intake in 1991 than in 1990 despite unfavourable economic conditions.
- Order book at the start of 1992 15% above the comparable 1991 level.
- Over £30m invested in the dry foods facility at Peterborough

Copies of the Report and Accounts will be available after 27 April 1992 from APV plc, 1 Lygon Place, London SW1W 0JR.



The world's food engineers.

Bunzl falls for the third year running

BY JONATHAN PRYNN

PRE-TAX profits at Bunzl, the paper, plastic and building products group that is undergoing a major restructuring, fell for the third successive year in 1991.

However, the shares perked up 4p to 90p on evidence that the overhaul of the group may begin to pay off during the current year.

Trading profits for the year to end-December were down by 17 per cent at £49.7 million mainly because of difficult trading conditions in the building materials business in America and problems with the Latin American and Brazilian operations.

Net restructuring costs of £8.7 million taken above the line and a higher interest charge meant that profits before tax fell from £52.6 million to £31.7 million. Group profits reached a peak of £93.3 million in 1988 at the end of a period of rapid acquisition growth.

A new central management team has been built up in the past seven months following the appointment of Anthony Habgood as chief executive. Since his arrival, businesses with combined sales of about £250 million have been shut, rationalised, or sold. Staffing has been reduced by 15 per cent to about 8,000. Mr Habgood said the group would now concentrate on turning round the performance of its five remaining business areas.

Borrowings were almost unchanged at £109 million, but the gearing level rose to 55 per cent because of a £15 million reduction in net assets, largely due to further charges associated with past disposals. These were shown in the accounts as the bulk of a £10.3 million extraordinary item. Interest cover was 4.4 times.

The final dividend of 2.2p made a barely covered 4p payout for the year, a 32 per cent reduction on 1991. Analysts said they welcomed the measures taken by the new management and have pencilled in profits of between £42 million and £46 million for the current year.

panel is strongest deterrent. The panel is contacting the Securities and Investments Board, which will write to other regulatory bodies and to regulated financial firms warning them not to deal with Mr Drummond or Mr Prentice in any takeover, at the risk of losing their regulatory licences.

The incident began when three companies bought an 82.5 per cent stake in Dundee FC for £750,000 in September last year. A company controlled by Mr Drummond bought 29.9 per cent and one controlled by Mr Prentice bought another 29.9 per cent. Under the terms of the code, any party with more than 30 per cent of a company has to make a full bid. The two men, however, did not do so.

By January, they had sold 71 per cent of the club to another company at a profit of £79,000. That company launched a full bid, although Mr Drummond retained an 11 per cent stake. It was then that the takeover panel became interested.

During its investigation, the panel

complained that "many communications were allowed to go unanswered or were met with deliberate obstruction" by Mr Drummond.

When the time came for the case to be heard, neither Mr Drummond nor Mr Prentice bothered to come to London. Instead, they sent a written statement. They were also absent from the appeal hearing.

In their defence, the two men claimed they were unaware of the full details of the Takeover Code, which apply to takeovers of all public companies. The appeal committee dismissed the claim. "If an individual or company engages in takeover transactions, he ignores the provisions of the code at his peril," it said.

Peter Lee, the deputy director general of the takeover panel, said this was an important decision for the panel. "Even though the sums may not be very large, the point of principle is important. It demonstrates that if you do not comply with the code, this will be the consequence," he said.

DUndee Football Club might be riding high at the top of the Scottish First Division, but the City takeover panel yesterday laid low two of its former owners. Andrew Drummond, a Dundee solicitor, and Robert Prentice, who is retiring with effect from July 14.

Minimum wage

The report on the impact of a minimum wage in yesterday's Times was based upon a survey by Industrial Relations Services, not Incomes Data Services.

New chairman

Christian Salvesen, the distribution group, has appointed Alick Rankin, chairman of Scottish and Newcastle, as chairman to succeed John West, who is retiring with effect from July 14.

Takeover panel shows the red card

BY NEIL BENNETT

DUNDEE Football Club might be riding high at the top of the Scottish First Division, but the City takeover panel yesterday laid low two of its former owners. Andrew Drummond, a Dundee solicitor, and Robert Prentice, who is retiring with effect from July 14.

An appeal committee of the panel on Wednesday upheld an earlier decision to censure publicly the two men who, it says, made "a deliberate attempt to conceal" a concert party to win control of the club without making a full bid.

The panel has also condemned Mr Drummond for failing to co-operate with its investigation and is making a formal complaint to the Law Society of Scotland.

Cold-shouldering introduced along with the Financial Services Act, is the

COMMENT

Tiny finds a generous buyer

René Leclezio, in his softer French tones, may not have been as extravagant as the previous occupant of the Lonrho chair in his praise of the group's all-powerful chief executive. He certainly hit the button when he said: "Mr Rowland is no ordinary man". Who but the ever-surprising Tiny Rowland would have cooked up a deal to take the Libyan state investment company as his partner in a chain of British conference hotels, when Britain and America have been trying to drum up economic sanctions against Colonel Gadaffi's regime.

The upside is that the colonel's men were prepared to pay a good price: £177 million for a one-third stake. The Metropole group had a book value of £390 million but outsiders reckoned Lonrho would be lucky to get £100 million less than book value if it were forced to sell at the moment. Instead, the injection enables Lonrho to retain Metropole, in which it has invested heavily, while apparently cutting attributable group net debt by nearly £120 million and easing its advance corporation tax bind. Cash is available for partnerships in some of the fine assets Lonrho has built. The downside, at the least, is that the market will feel Lonrho could not afford to be choosy.

The more immediate worry for Lonrho investors must lie in the first half of the current year, which Mr Leclezio made clear would be dire. One or two analysts have projected profits as low as £30 million but such pessimistic figures would not allow for one-off profits from sales of property in Germany. A deal over the group's Volkswagen concession should not be ruled out. For trading, especially in the second half, much depends on the timing of Lonrho's intended expansion of platinum and rhodium production this year and how this fits with recovery of precious metal prices. That could produce a late bounce. Lonrho certainly needs it.

Late victory

Redland always looked likely to win the battle for control of Steetley and though professional shareholders left it late, the acceptances poured in yesterday. The lateness of the victory tells us more about uncertainties arising from an impending election rather than institutional support for Steetley whose defence suffered a mortal blow with the revelation that it was writing off a significant portion of its investment in a French aggregates acquisition.

Steetley's plans for a joint venture with Tarmac looked defensive though by no means lacked sense. But they made a full bid, with a premium for control passing directly to shareholders, far more difficult to fight off. To many shareholders, the abortive deal with Tarmac had too many overtones of a poison pill. The recent spate of bid rumours swirling around Tarmac underlines the perceived vulnerability of a company which has suffered far more than many in the housing downturn. Steetley shareholders, if they have opted for the share offer, should have little to bemoan in the immediate future. They have a much less direct exposure to the problems of the domestic economy and can expect Redland's lively top management to make good use of the group's enlarged assets.

Redland has been stalking Steetley for a long time and has clearly developed plans for squeezing out £30 million of costs and other merger benefits. The deal should be a splendid one for Redland shareholders as the economy finally pulls out of recession. That may be a longish haul, yet it is difficult to assess the extent of the election blight which has halted or slowed commercial decisions throughout the economy.

Wolfgang Münchau
believes that change is
in the air as the
Cresson government
increasingly appears to
have run out of steam

Gone is the enthusiasm that greeted the new government when it took office more than a decade ago. The economic pattern is all too familiar: a recession to start with, an illusory economic miracle to follow, and now this. The government looks tired. Rarely has the notion that it is time for change had such powerful appeal.

The country in question is, of course, France. The regional elections last weekend gave an inkling of the general, though not necessarily well articulated, dissatisfaction of the French voter. The ballot, which pushed the socialists below 20 per cent, could herald an end to their era, and with it an end to some of the socialists' economic policies. The feeling that something is about to change in France is all too palpable.

The election was followed by two seemingly unrelated events, both in the corporate sector. Perrier, the flagship mineral water company, finally succumbed to a hostile foreign takeover, symbolising the end of France's outmoded takeover practices. Then newspapers speculated that Renault, the state-owned car maker, was about to merge with Volvo into a company with significant private-sector shareholdings.

These events indicate a departure from Edith Cresson's protectionist industrial policy dogmas. This shift in policy has been apparent for some time and is significant, not only for its own sake but also because industrial policy forms the only area of economic policy in which France's socialists differ significantly from the main opposition. If the socialists water down their industrial policy, the main political parties offer almost no distinguishable economic agendas, especially as the opposition is not principally opposed to industrial policy as such. These policies will be indistinguishable from those of France's neighbours.

Monetary policy has, effectively been in the hands of the Bundesbank since the creation of the exchange-rate mechanism in 1979. The French also agree to keep public finances healthy and have eschewed the notorious fiscal profligacy of southern Europe.

Only on the issue of industrial policy did the socialists and the conservatives offer distinct alternatives. The socialists believed in the strategic industries, whose corporate representatives are otherwise unlovingly known as national champions. The right offered privatisation, a policy adopted briefly in the period of cohabitation during the short-lived Mitterand/Chirac ad-



Time to leave? Last weekend's ballot may herald the end of Edith Cresson's term in France

ministration in the late Eighties. Since then, the tide has been turning against the national champions towards privatisation, not only in France but elsewhere in Europe.

This trend has put France's socialists in a policy dilemma. Mme Cresson gave this concept perhaps a final run up the flagpole last year when she started insulting the Japanese and insisted that France must retain an independent capability in sectors such as electronics.

However, the Cresson dogma faltered early. It was certainly no option for Bull, the financially troubled state computer maker, which saw no alternative but to bring IBM in as a shareholder and partner so that it could stand a chance in this rough market. Nor will this dogma be an option for Renault, a medium-sized car maker in relation to the European car industry leaders.

Outside Europe, Renault is hardly known, and the sector is vulnerable to the eventual unrestricted opening of the market to Japanese car makers. Renault on its own looks vulner-

able. The shift in industrial policy has a number of causes: market deregulation in the case of cars, changing demand in the case of computers.

The most significant cause is the supply-side squeeze. The trouble facing France's state-owned companies is similar in type, though not in scale, to the weakness of Britain's former state-owned combines: they are underfunded.

For example, France's so-called Grandes Entreprises Nationales (GEN), excluding the state-owned banks and insurance groups, had a joint turnover in 1990 of Fr523 billion, which is equivalent to 7.1 per cent of the turnover in the non-financial private sector. Yet GEN borrowing amounted to only 3 per cent of the borrowing of the non-financial private sector. In other words, a French private company can borrow more than twice as much per unit of output sold. From anecdotal evidence, the situation is similar in the

financial sector, as France's state-owned banks are undercapitalised compared with European rivals.

State ownership has squeezed the investment and expansion of such companies. The contrast between private and public sectors also puts into perspective the notion sometimes entertained at the European Commission, that the French government is pouring good money after bad into its state-owned holdings, distorting competition in their respective sectors.

One could explain the borrowing differentials by arguing that the public companies are all lame ducks, compared with a much healthier private sector.

This argument might hold true elsewhere, but the French GEN include a number of decent and profitable companies such as Elf, France Telecom, and Rhône Poulen. The underlying weakness in industrial policy as pursued in France is that if a company is considered "strategic" enough to warrant a public status, it might be

deprived of the funds it needs to pursue this strategy. Furthermore, the commission's focus on competition in France will make it even more difficult over time for French state-owned companies to invest "strategically" elsewhere in Europe.

The next question is how to privatise. The British way of privatisation is perhaps not a good example. The conservative government under M Chirac chose this approach with some companies, such as Saint Gobain, the glass maker. The problem with floatations is that it is government that receives the money, rather than the companies, at least initially. This would not solve the undercapitalisation problem in the short term, the solution of which is most pressing at the moment.

The French government is, in any case, one of the few in Europe that does not need the money. This might sound extravagant, but France is certainly one of the few European countries whose public finances are relatively healthy. Total gross debt is 47.2 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP), marginally higher than Germany's or Britain's. Last year's public sector borrowing was only 1.5 per cent of GDP, less than Britain's 2.25 per cent or Germany's 3.6 per cent. Since the French, like the British, react to fiscal stimuli by buying foreign goods, one could argue that little is to be gained by the fiscal effects of a privatisation sale windfall. Nor do the French need to spend vast sums on building their infrastructure, which is already the best in Europe. On this aspect, at least, France and Britain differ.

Since privatisation is not necessary from a fiscal policy point of view, the French find themselves able to choose a different approach by bringing private investors in as strategic and financial partners.

This approach may be characterised as privatisation by stealth but it amounts to privatisation nevertheless, at least over the medium to long term. This happened when IBM stepped in to help Bull, IBM's future equity stake, about 5 per cent to 10 per cent, is only marginal, but the technical and marketing link is more significant. Over time, IBM could emerge as the leading shareholder and, who knows, IBM may gobble up Bull altogether eventually, despite official protestations.

Few save the most dogmatic proponents of industrial chivalry, such as Mme Cresson, will mourn the evolution from a pure state sector into a combination of public private. This does not end industrial policy but curbs its worst excesses.

With the last bastion of socialist economic policy crumbling, the question of whether the socialists or the Gaullists run the country will matter less and less, at least from an economic standpoint. In this respect, France is becoming just like every other country in Europe.

French malaise, page 14

THE TIMES



CITY DIARY

Fletcher flies Fry

MIKE Fletcher, managing director of Johnson Fry, is leaving to join his old Keele university chum and long-time skiing companion Philip Soar on the board of Blenheim Group, the UK's top exhibitions organizer and former USM company of the year. Fletcher, aged 46, who will head Blenheim's UK business, is believed to have been tempted by a salary of about £150,000 a year, plus share options in Blenheim — where profits have risen from £0.5 million to £28.3 million in six years, via a hectic acquisitions programme — which could make Fletcher a millionaire. Fletcher admits that the move means leaving behind substantial share options at Johnson Fry, where he has been for the past five years, but says he hopes the Blenheim options will "more than compensate" for the loss. He also leaves behind "a whole stack" of new ideas he has been working on in readiness for the day when BES schemes — property schemes account at BES for over a third of Johnson Fry's profits — come to an end in 1993. "The last thing I wanted to do was to leave Johnson Fry in the lurch and I don't think I have," says Fletcher. He has timed his departure to coincide with the end of Johnson Fry's busiest period of the year, and will join Blenheim at the start of May.

Carte blanche

BARELY 36 hours after bidding farewell to colleagues and contacts at a lavish party



"I'm worried about sanctions — or a possible air strike."

in a Covent Garden wine-bar, hosted by GrandMet chairman Sir Alan Shepard, Tim Halford, the firm's in-house public relations man, will this morning announce that he has landed a new job. Halford, aged 45, and previously employed by Occidental Petroleum as Armand Hammer's personal assistant — he was said to be one of only three men in whom Hammer confided — is to become director of public affairs at Trafalgar House. "I seem to like Sixties companies," says Halford. "Occidental, GrandMet and Trafalgar all floated in 1962 or 1963 and companies of that era seem to have a certain style. A legacy of entrepreneurial style, perhaps." Thankfully his change of employer will not interfere with Halford's culinary preferences. Already a regular at the restaurant in the Stafford Hotel, openly preferring it to GrandMet's Chef & Brewer eatery chain, he will now be positively encouraged to

Sighing with relief

LAWRENCE Lever, the former *Times* journalist who led the field reporting the Barlow Clowes affair and breathing a sigh of relief publication did not coincide with the birth of his first child, due on election eve. "I had a terrible vision of my wife going into labour early and me being stuck in Manchester," he said. If his wife Keren had given birth early, she would have been bereft of support as his mother brought half the family and friends to the launch. "Just like a re-run of our wedding minus the bride," he quipped. Meanwhile, the book has gone straight into the *Sunday Times* Bookwatch bestseller list at number 20.

CAROL LEONARD

BUSINESS LETTERS

Price of ERM is unacceptable

From C. R. Baker

Sir, It is typical of the "head in the clouds" attitude to Europe held by such as Michael Cassidy (Business News, March 20) that gives this election an unreal appearance. The arguments on the economy are reiterated every day by all parties and they all broadly say the same thing — we're in the ERM and we make our policy from that starting point.

No one talks about lower interest rates or promises them in the UK, because they are not possible while Germany sucks in huge amounts of money to bail out what was formerly East Germany, for which need high levels of interest rates to attract the funds in the first place; and in the meantime, wage demands and awards are going up there because interest rates are higher than they've been before — which, of course, pushes up inflation

etc. etc. We've seen it all before.

The difference this time is that the poor (and becoming much poorer) citizens of Britain are being penalised because of Germany's social and political priorities, they are losing their jobs in large numbers and their houses are closing at an alarming rate and their houses are declining in value, diminishing their disposable income.

To paraphrase someone famous who resigned after an indiscreet lunch, something's not right and until it is, thoughts about siting European central banks, joining EMU etc are pie in the sky, because when they wake up to what's happening, our people won't want any part of it.

Yours sincerely,

C. R. BAKER,
c/o Bechtel House,
4th Floor,
245 Hammersmith Road,
W6.

Insurers short-change policyholders

From Mr John L. Norden

Sir, Many people whose life and pensions policies are due to mature this year will, it seems, be receiving payouts well below reasonable expectations, thanks to the decision of the leading houses, taken after consultation, to reduce bonus rates.

Apparently they attempt to justify this to the unfortunate policyholder by pointing to a general expectation of lower interest rates in the next few years. This will be small consolation to those who have paid their premiums, in preference to surrendering, in the belief that life and pensions policies are a reliable, if unexciting, form of investment.

Needless to say, this belief has been fostered by the insurers.

The rising generation should be warned that the insurance industry, which seemed to have recovered from the blow to its reputation inflicted by the collapse of UKPI, is now placing a low priority on keeping faith with private policyholders.

Yours faithfully,
J. L. NORDEN,
31 Manor Road,
Bladon,
Oxfordshire.

Letters to *The Times*
Business and Finance
section can be sent by
fax on 071-782 5112.

British Gas announces changes to the Medium Term (MT2) Schedule for Firm and Interruptible contract customers.

For new contracts entered into under the terms of the MT2 Schedule on or after 1st April 1992 the following changes will apply:

- (i) The maximum annual variation to the estimated consumption of each individual premises permitted under the contract shall be plus or minus 10%.
 - (ii) The minimum Payment Quantity in each Contract Year shall be 50% of the nominal consumption of each premises.
 - (iii) The maximum permitted carry over of Credit Totals shall not exceed 10% of the nominal consumption of each individual premises in any one Contract Year. Credit Totals are the sums consumed in excess of the nominal consumption of each individual premises.
- These changes do not apply to contracts already entered into under the MT2 Schedule.

Copies of the Schedules and conditions of contracts are available from the Registered and Regional Head Offices of British Gas.

Issued by British Gas, Registered Office, Broadgate, London EC2M 7BB. Registered No. 12000000.

British Gas

THE TIMES LINE TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

LONDON PRICED OPTIONS															
Call															
Sales Apr	1st Oct	Apr	1st Oct	Oct	Sales Apr	1st May	Apr	1st May	May	Sales Apr	1st Sep	Apr	1st Sep	Sep	Oct
All Lyon	600	38	49	71	7	22	28	BAA	550	33	46	61	14	24	28
Anglia	2,100	77	84	91	11	54	55	BAT	600	10	24	31	50	55	55
Argyll	1,700	54	63	71	11	14	11	BAT Ind	450	67	65	74	24	13	56
Arpt Wren	1,700	54	63	71	11	14	11	BAT Ind	700	20	37	50	36	45	56
ASDA	10	5	10	13	11	13	13	Batr	35	4	7	8	6	9	13
Boss	28	26	30	34	33	28	28	Batr	25	28	30	32	28	28	28
Boss	22	20	24	31	33	28	28	Batr	22	17	23	30	36	31	28
Boss	40	33	36	43	45	34	36	Batr	28	35	47	51	8	14	36
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Portfolio

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From your Portfolio Platinum card check your portfolio value on page 60. Add them up to get the overall total and check this against the dividend figure. If it matches you have won a prize. If not, follow the simple procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No Company	Group	Code or Name	Price	Yield	% P/E
1 Whistler	Industrial				
2 Argit Gp	Paper, Print				
3 RMC Co	Building, Rds				
4 TRobot & Brins	Transport				
5 Booker	Foods				
6 RPP	Newspaper, Pub				
7 Hodder (4 F)	Booksellers				
8 Stora	Water				
9 Blue Circle	Building, Rds				
10 Sca & New	Brands				
11 Cabot Elec	Industrial				
12 THORN EMI	Electrical				
13 First Leisure	Vacations				
14 NRC	Transport				
15 Yorkshire W	Water				
16 Stanley J	Foods				
17 Knoll Sack	Foods				
18 Loring (J)	Building, Rds				
19 WPP	Paper, Print				
20 South West	Water				
21 Grand Met	Brands				
22 MPEC	Property				
23 BOC	Industrial				
24 Courtaulds Text	Textiles				
25 Q8 Hidge	Drooping Stee				
26 Waterous Water	Water				
27 Endefit	Motor,Air				
28 Papier	Drapery, Stns				
29 Taylor Woodrow	Building, Rds				
30 GRH	Industrial				
31 Lex Services	Motor,Air				
32 Worcester	Industrial				
33 Best Chems	Chemicals				
34 Innocence Gp	Industrial				
35 Gleeson (M)	Building, Rds				
36 Bleschley Mr	Motor,Air				
37 Deewell (GA)	Breweries				
38 Phoenix Group	Motor,Air				
39 Reckitt Colm	Industrial				
40 Bovis	Construction				
41 Hazelet Credit	Industrial				
42 TI	Industrial				
43 First Group	Industrial				
44 Rainie Ind	Building, Rds				

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Please take into account any minus signs

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Please make a note of your daily goals for the weekly dividend of £8,000 in tomorrow's newspaper					
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
£	£	£	£	£	£

Two readers shared the Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. Joan Harvey, of Poole, Dorset, and Barbara Guelff, of London SW19, each received £2,000.

1991/92 High Low Company Price Net Yield % P/E

</div

Two jobs can make up for having none

By RODNEY HOBSON

THE benefits for the self-employed of doing more than one job are set out in a publication from KPMG Management Consulting that says an increasing number of people made redundant or forced into early retirement are "going plural".

John Hall, a partner at KPMG Management Consulting, says:

"The days of having a career for life are over, but having several jobs or interests at once, particularly for the middle-aged, can prove to be a tremendous opportunity." He cites the example of a man who earns a respectable income from counselling ten drug addicts a week. He has experience in finance - which made him an ideal candidate for part-time treasurer at a clinic - and at weekends his proficiency with a video recorder earns him fees at weddings and christenings.

Mr Hall says: "Many people who have gone plural are working at careers they only dreamed about. Going plural gives you the flexibility of doing a mixture of paid and unpaid work while you develop your plans and ambitions."

He says many people losing their jobs have seen their financial circumstances change dramatically since they started work. The mortgage may be paid off, or under control, while the children may have left home. The redundancies package has probably provided a short-term cushion.

Mr Hall says: "It is not easy. All your life, other people - parents, teachers, employers and spouses - have been telling you what you should be doing. We know what we are good at, but that does not necessarily imply that we enjoy doing it."

The booklet suggests where to get advice and what considerations should be uppermost. Mr Hall says: "Do not be afraid to talk openly about your talents."

* Enquiries to KPMG, 20 Farringdon Street, London EC4A 4PP; telephone 071-236 8000.

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Stepping Stones for little people

By CHRISTOPHER BROWNE

A PRIVATE house is an unlikely place to find a factory, but that is what Jemma Cowley likes to call her home. She calls it the factory because she sees it as a production line, comprising four managers and 15 children. It is a day nursery; the "managers" are four qualified nurses and their production line is the ground floor of Mrs Cowley's home in Battersea, London. It is called Stepping Stones.

Mrs Cowley, whose husband, Christopher, is a quantity surveyor, said: "I regard it like a manufacturing plant where children can produce anything from the drawing of a duck to a small doll. We call the nursery the little people's factory and run it with a whole medley of activities that we know will keep the children busy and interested."

She started the business when, ten months after having twins, she decided to return to work as a health visitor and needed a day-care centre for the twins and her three-year-old son. But she could not find anywhere that provided the comfort and interest she was looking for them.

Her bank manager agreed to give her a loan to set up a day nursery in May 1988. The Cowleys spent several months converting their home, turning three large rooms into the nursery.

She was then able to register with Wandsworth borough council, helped by her qualifications as a state registered nurse, health



visitor and registered children's sick nurse. However, when she distributed leaflets about the nursery to local homes, she had little success. Then local newspaper advertising caught the attention of several mothers. More advertising in local church magazines also brought a response. The family lived solely off her husband's income for ten months. By the end of

the first year, Mrs Cowley had a regular intake of 15 children, aged between one and five, who either spent their days at the nursery from 8am to 6pm or, where their mothers were working part-time, came for a half day.

Mrs Cowley is responsible for day-to-day administration. She also does the cooking and cleaning. She does the books, employ-

TIM BISHOP

Three trade associations are to be chosen by the Department of Employment for an experiment aimed at helping small businesses plagued by late payments. The initiative is in addition to measures set out in the Budget for tackling such problems.

Each association will get cash help of up to £30,000. It is likely to be used mainly to run telephone helplines for members facing serious difficulties because of late payments.

□ Adrian Beecroft, chairman of the British Venture Capital Association, says there are increased opportunities for buy-ins of businesses in receivership, as well as buyouts by the management. He told a conference organised by GMS Consultancy, a specialist in executive leasing, that more than a quarter of transactions are currently coming out of receiverships.

With receivership, a buy-in has to be put together in as little as ten days - not easy, since it involves constructing a team from outside. Ex-managers who had become consultants could play a key role in recruiting such teams, the conference was told.

□ More than a quarter of a million callers have now telephoned 081-200 1992, the trade and industry hotline that has been available since April 1988 for business people to find out how the single European market will affect them. The 250,000th call was taken by Peter Lilley, the trade and industry secretary.

EDITED BY DEREK HARRIS

Putting the interest back into day-care: Jemma Cowley emphasises comfort and activity

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Year of celebration for a nation reborn

Spain has transformed itself since the death of Franco and this year is on display for the world to see. Peter Strafford reports. But there are some worries about its future in the EC's single market

Spain has taken 1992 as its great opportunity to present itself to the world in its new democratic and progressive guise. Spaniards are justifiably proud of the transformation they have brought about in many areas of their national life since General Franco's death in 1975, and they have seized on the symbolic significance of this year, the 500th anniversary of Christopher Columbus's discovery of the New World.

Enormous sums of money have been spent on building new roads, railway lines, airport and port buildings, telecommunications facilities and hotels for the year's two big events: Expo '92, the world fair that will be held in Seville from April 20 to October 12, and the Olympic Games, to take place in Barcelona from July 25 to August 9. In Madrid, which is European cultural capital for the year, museums, theatres, concert halls and parks are being refurbished and new ones built.

There is nothing half-hearted about the way the Spaniards have gone about all this. They have been ambitious and enthusiastic, and that has made them an easy target for carping when things have gone wrong. These are not longer in dispute.

All is not euphoria, however. People are painfully aware of the continuing atrocities committed by Eta, the terrorist movement that demands Basque independence, and of the growth of drug trafficking and addiction, a new phenomenon in Spain. There are the tensions caused by immigration, mainly from North Africa, which is also new in a country more used to emigration than immigration.

In the economic area, Spain achieved rapid rates of growth during the 1980s, and began to catch up its richer partners in the European Community, which it joined in 1986.

The rate of growth has slowed, however, and Spain has paid a high price in unemployment, now officially 15 per cent, for the

held prisoner in the 16th century," he says.

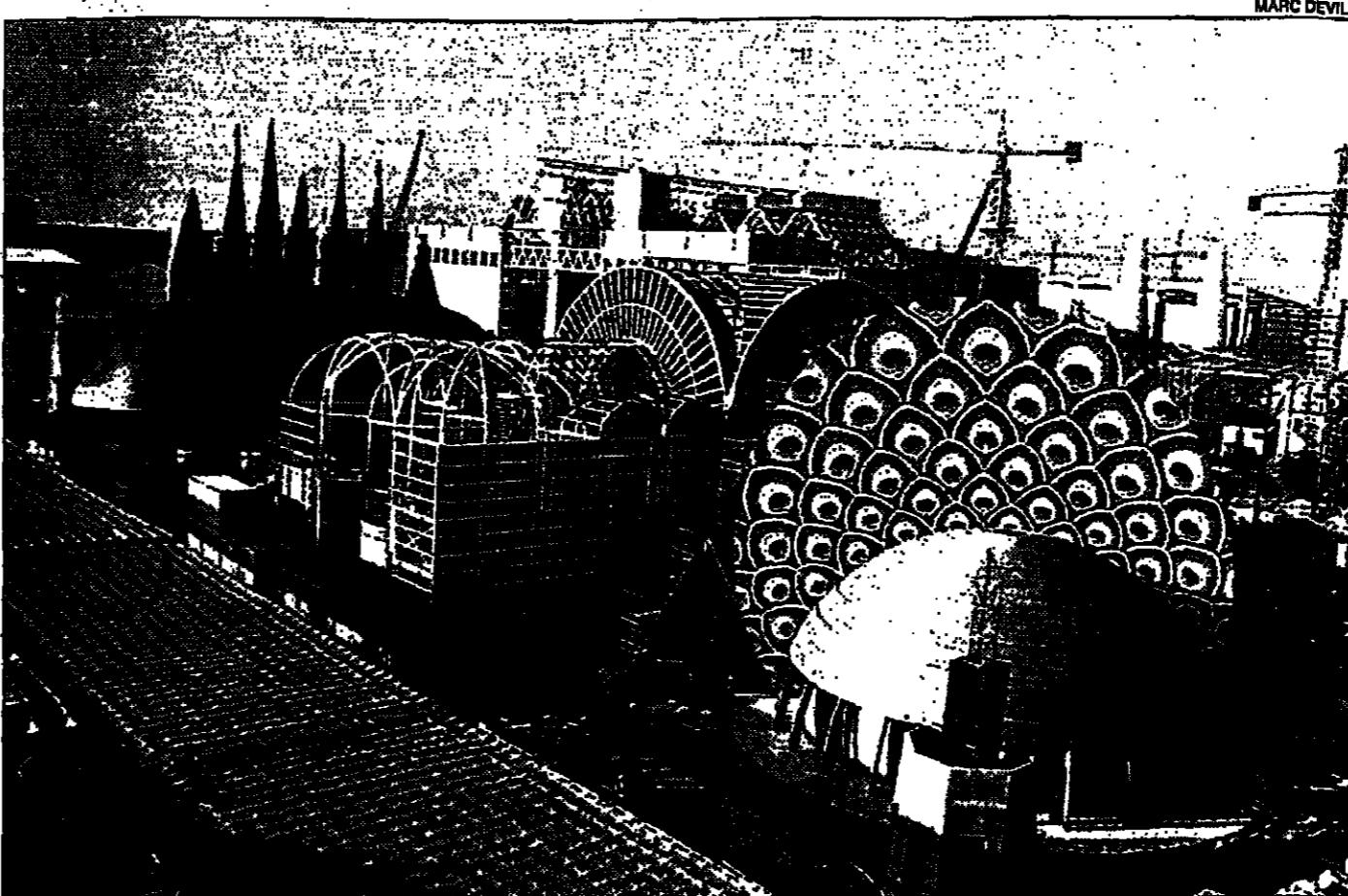
There is a general belief that Spain has now put the bad days behind it, and that the world should be encouraged to come and see. Narcis Serra, the deputy prime minister, says this is a turning point in Spain's history. There are, he says, four principal areas of achievement: Spain now has a young, but mature and functioning democracy; it has achieved "a certain performance" in the economic area; it has succeeded in structuring internal relations between the centre and the regions; and it has a presence in Europe, as an active member of the European Union being built.

Joan Maragall, the mayor of Barcelona, goes further. Spain, he says, has resolved issues that go back to 1812, when the first modern, liberal constitution was signed. For more than a century and a half the country had been divided, not just by political instability, but by such questions as relations between church and state, land reform and freedom of expression. These are no longer in dispute.

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MARC DEVILLE

Pavilion spectacular: Expo '92, running from April until October in Seville, is Spain's way of showing itself off to the world

continuing process of modernisation. There is a widespread fear that the Spanish economy will have difficulty in meeting the challenge of international competition in the future.

The European single market will come into effect next year, and further demands will be made as the EC moves towards economic and monetary union. Spain is determined to be up with the leaders, but people know that the going is likely to be rough.

Señor Serra admits he sometimes feels that Spain is trying to go too fast. Professor Cayetano López Martínez, the rector of the Autonomous University of Madrid, is even more pessimistic. "The changes in Spain are spectacular," he says. "But they are not deep enough. I am not sure that scientific power and education in Spain approach those of the rest of Europe, and that will be

crucial for the future. Spain's capacity for real competition in industry is not great enough.

"We still have the burden of the 19th century — corrupt regimes, the buying of votes, the strong, and bad, influence of the Church. We have to fight against the inertia of history."

For the moment, however, there is much to celebrate, as any comparison with the Spain of, say, 20 years ago will show. Alejandro Rojas Marcos, the mayor of Seville, points out that he was arrested three times for opposition to Franco, and spent a month in prison. Since then, the political transformation has been total, from dictatorship to a democratic system, which, although it is now dominated by one party, the Socialists (PSOE), and although there have been some well-publicised cases of corruption, has proved its stability.

The economic improvement was less sudden, as it had already begun under Franco in the 1960s. However, it has accelerated dramatically during the past decade, and most Spaniards live far better than they did.

Señor Serra's third point, relations between the centre and the regions, is significant because that is an area in which some of the biggest changes have taken place. Spain is a country of great diversity, in which there have always been disputes between the central government in Madrid and the regions, such as Catalonia and the Basque country, that have a strong sense of identity, and a language, of their own.

Devolution of power from the centre was one of the causes of the Civil War of 1936-9, and after his victory Franco clamped down on any demonstration of regional identity.

Efforts were made to

stamp out the Basque and Catalan languages. The harshness of Franco's policy, which went against the tolerance often shown for regional rights in Spanish history, led to the creation of Eta by Basque extremists, as well as less significant independence movements in Catalonia and in Galicia, which also has a language of its own.

Since 1979 Franco's policy has been reversed, first to the Basque country, Catalonia and Galicia, and subsequently to 14 other regions. This devolution is felt to have been a success. Devolution has not removed all grievances between Madrid and the regions, but it has transferred decision-making on many issues to the regions, and provided an institutional framework for discussing differences.

In the Basque country, Eta continues to be a serious menace, as it does throughout the country.

but its political base has been undermined and its appeal weakened. There is now a Basque regional government, headed by the Partido Nacional Vasco, a long-established and moderate Basque nationalist party, and every significant party in the region except Herri Batasuna, generally associated with Eta, has condemned terrorism.

The regional structure is not static. Every region has its own statute of autonomy, with a list of powers that varies from one to another. Discussion is now continuing on a new agreement, which will transfer new powers, including responsibility for education, to regions with less autonomy. At the other end of the scale, Catalonia, which considers that it is a special case because of its history, and which already has greater powers than most of the other regions, is pressing for new ones.

Señor Serra's final point, and another area of achievement by democratic Spain, is relations with the rest of Europe. In Franco's day, Europe was for most Spaniards an ideal world on the other side of the Pyrenees. Now that it has become a member of the EC, Spain has not only come out of its isolation, but experienced great improvement in its standard of living. Europe and the concept of European unity have continued to have a special appeal. Spaniards are proud to consider themselves Europeans.

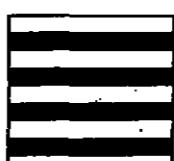
At EC meetings Spain is an enthusiastic European. It has also pressed for extra financial help for the poorer countries, of which it is the leader. At the Maastricht summit in December it persuaded its partners to agree to set up a new Cohesion Fund, intended to help itself, the Irish Republic, Portugal and Greece, though no amounts were agreed.

The government is often able to present unpopular internal policies, particularly in the economic field, as being required by Spain's membership of the EC. It is keen, however, not to cause a revision against the EC.

Señor Serra emphasises that, although economic measures may be necessary to bring Spain into line with the other members, they are needed in any case for the process of modernising Spain.

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After nearly ten years in power, the socialist government of Felipe González seems immovable. Frank Smith on why the opposition has no teeth...

REX FEATURE

Left in the centre, right out in the cold

José María Aznar, leader of the main opposition party, the conservative Popular Party (PP), put it succinctly earlier this month. "We have to learn to fall in love again", he said, "with politics, democracy and freedom."

Señor Aznar was speaking during the regional election campaign in Catalonia. He identified a disenchantment that has become pronounced in Spanish political life over the past couple of years and is reflected in two trends: the increasingly bitter relations between the main political parties, and the growing gap between politicians and the people they represent.

It is partly explained by the fact that, after almost ten years of rule by the Socialists,

led by Felipe González, the prime minister, the chances of anyone removing them from power in the foreseeable future are remote. The Spanish political system is, as a result, fossilised, and the opposition parties are more and more frustrated by their inability to effect change.

Faced with this reality, the PP has concentrated its attack on the one area in which it believes the government to be vulnerable — the proliferation of scandals that have dogged Spanish political and financial life in recent times. The latest affair involves allegations of "insider trading" and of shady connections officially denied between Mariano Rubio, the governor of the Bank of Spain, and Ibercorp, a small investment

SELECT

banking group that is being investigated for possible breaches of financial probity.

The affair is symptomatic, the PP claims, of the kind of country Spain has become under the Socialists — a nation in which the so-called "beautiful people", financiers and bankers with links to the Socialist party, have become a class apart from the rest of society, seemingly able to do what they like with impunity.

This image of modern Spain, of a society in which rulers and ruled have become divorced, is denounced not only by the PP, but by a press that is capable nowadays of digging up almost daily dirt about people in high places. It is something that concerns and angers Señor González.

Still only 50, despite his ten years in office, Señor González has repeatedly accused the PP of trying to make political capital out of cases of alleged corruption in Spain. "This country has no more, though probably no fewer, examples of corruption than any other democratic country," he says. "What lies behind all this is the desperation of an opposition that realises that it has little chance of coming to power."

The PP vehemently denies this charge. Where there is corruption, it says, the party has a democratic duty to denounce it. The resulting slanging match makes no

mal discourse in political life here difficult.

Relations between the main parties have become so frosty that some day-to-day business is done through "the usual channels", has been interrupted.

The election of members of the Constitutional Court, for instance, has been blocked for weeks because of the deterioration in relations between the Socialists and the PP. When Señor González and Señor Aznar met recently to sign a new agreement affecting the regional governments of Spain, it was their first face-to-face encounter for more than a year.

The paralysis of political life and the lack of a real political alternative to the Socialists pose problems that even Señor González is prepared to admit. "The institutions would function much better, and the political climate would be much calmer", he declared, "if the opposition had real expectations of power. But they seem incapable of creating an alternative in which even their own voters can believe."

This is the essential weakness of the Spanish political system at the moment. The Socialists are an immovable object and Señor González is a political Goliath whom Señor Aznar simply cannot



Rally for victory: but the gap is growing between politicians and the people they have been elected to represent

topple. It is partly a question of personality. Although younger than Señor González, Señor Aznar does not begin to measure up to his Socialist rival in political charisma.

It is also partly that Señor Aznar is handicapped by having to work in the still far-reaching shadow of the previous PP leader, Manuel Fraga Iribarne. Once a minister under Franco, Señor Fraga is now semi-retired from the

national scene, and heads the autonomous government of Galicia, in northwestern Spain. But he has the disconcerting knack of making statements in public that blatantly contradict the policies pursued by his successor.

Personals apart, there is another, more fundamental, reason why, in the foreseeable future, it will be difficult for the opposition to break the mould and come to power in today's Spain. Ideological dif-

ferences between left and right have, as elsewhere in Europe, virtually disappeared.

The government is socialist in nothing but name, and has taken the centre ground of liberal capitalism, the traditional reserve of the Spanish right.

At the same time, since the Roman Catholic Church deliberately withdrew from the political fray during the final years of the Franco regime,

the right has also been prived of the ideological momentum that, in the past, bound it together and distinguished it from the left.

With the right unable to appeal to traditional Catholic values and the Socialists claiming a decent job in nurturing of capitalism, it seems that Spanish conservatives may continue to find themselves on the opposition benches in the Cortes for some time.

Political Goliath: Felipe González has no real challengers

Happy to be Europeans

Once the least continental of countries, Spain is now among the EC's most enthusiastic members

One of the most remarkable aspects of modern Spain has been its metamorphosis from the pariah of Europe into one of the most active and determined members of the European Community. It joined the EC only six years ago, but it is very much a part of the continent.

Spain continues to cherish its relations with the Spanish-speaking countries of Latin America, although for sentimental rather than practical reasons. Closer to home, it is deeply concerned about the prospect of turbulence in North Africa. However, Europe has become the principal focus of its foreign policy.

Spain's ambition to become more European than the Europeans, to throw its lot with the political and economic destiny of the EC, can only be properly explained by those dark days of isolationism experienced during the Franco dictatorship. To belong to the democratic club of European nations was the most obvious way to consolidate the new Spanish society that was emerging after 40 years of authoritarian rule, and to exorcise the old demons which had bedevilled Spanish political life for so long.

"We distrusted ourselves," says Eduardo Punset, a member of the European Parliament, who was minister for relations with Europe when Spain first applied to join the club in the late 1970s. "All we had to do was look at our history, and realise that we did not have a very good record of democracy. When told that Brussels could do it for us, we thought it would be better than anything we had had in the past here."

Fifteen years on, that judgment has proved to have been sound. Membership of the Community is paying handsome dividends, too, in terms of political consensus. Felipe González, Spain's prime minister for the past "European" decade, has watched over his country's graduation from apprentice to professional in the Community stakes.

"Spanish public opinion", Señor González says, "has always favoured our integration into Europe, as a way of bringing a relatively backward country into line with much more developed countries — politically, institutionally, socially and economically".

The process of catching up with the rest of Europe has been swift. Since its accession in 1986, the prosperity of Spain has advanced, when compared with the average level of all the EC countries, by at least one percentage point a year. It now stands

near the 80 per cent mark on the European ladder.

Spaniards have also learnt how to earn their keep by acquiring the skills of their new European trade. They have proved tough and successful negotiators in the corridors of European politics.

None more so than Carlos Westendorp, the Spanish minister for Europe, who spent his formative political years in Brussels as Spain's representative to the Community before and after the country's accession. Señor Westendorp was at Señor González's side at the Maastricht summit last December, when Spain persuaded the rest of the EC to accept, albeit only in principle, Madrid's plan for a Cohesion Fund.

It was a considerable coup for Spanish diplomacy to extract promises of cash from the richer members of the Community to help the poorer, in a sort of inter-state compensation fund not dissimilar to the one that operates within Spain itself.

Señor Westendorp claims that when it came to negotiating the fund, he took a leaf out of the British book. "In European affairs, we have learnt a lot from the United Kingdom negotiators," he says. "You have to have a strategic plan and follow it through. Two years ago we started trying to persuade our partners that 'cohesion' was necessary."

"At first we got a negative response, but we persevered and in the end we got, not everything we wanted, but a result."

For the time being, the Cohesion Fund is an empty box which has to be filled. However, whatever the amount finally settled upon over the next couple of months, as the EC haggles over the financial restructuring of its financial affairs, it is likely that Spain will receive 60 per cent of the new fund.

On its own, this will not be enough to overcome the economic challenges Spain still has to face, not only as the competition of the European single market begins to bite, but also as the country prepares for what Señor González calls its A-levels: the convergence criteria to be met by 1997 if it is to be a full participant in economic and monetary union.

Señor González is confident, however, that Spain is up to this new European challenge. "We are a country", he says, "with vitality and a capacity to grow." He predicts that with discipline Spain can bring inflation, currently at 6.8 per cent, under control, and that by 2000 it will be in the front rank of European nations.

F.S.

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... while Jane Monahan explains public purse strings are to be tightened even more to bring down inflation and meet the EC's requirements

FRANK SPOONER

Axe hangs over spending

The Cortes, the Spanish parliament, have had before them this month a five-year convergence plan intended to prepare Spain for entry into the next phase of the European Community's economic and monetary union in 1997.

This is a government priority, and the intention of Carlos Solchaga, the economy minister, is that the plan should be rigorously implemented.

In particular, he wants a drastic overhaul of public spending. This is considered vital if Spain is to take part in the EC's integration process as a member of the first league of member countries, on which Felipe González, the prime minister, is insisting.

One of the conditions for that is that the budget deficit must be brought down to less than 3 per cent of gross national product. In 1991, it stood at 4 per cent, including spending by the regional governments.

Another voice calling for a curb on state spending has been Mariano Rubio, the governor of the Bank of Spain. Restrictive monetary policies, such as keeping interest rates high, cannot on their own reduce inflation, and the inflation rate also has to be brought down if Spain is to be in the EC's first league. At the end of February there was an annual inflation rate of 6.8 per cent, and this needs to be reduced to 3 per cent if Spain's inflation is to match that of the EC's economically stable countries.

The causes of Spanish inflation are complex, as Señor

Solchaga and Señor Rubio are the first to admit. One reason is the continuation of monopolistic price practices in a range of services such as hotels and restaurants, house repairs and private teaching, all of which have stayed immune to competition. One of the goals of the convergence plan is that they should be liberalised.

Another factor is wage levels, and the government has recommended that pay rises should not exceed 6 per cent this year. This appears to have fallen on deaf ears, however, to judge by transport strikes in February in Madrid and Barcelona. A three-week strike by underground workers in Madrid ended only when the city hall agreed to pay rises of 8 per cent.

One measure intended to balance the budget better is the planned floating of between 10 and 20 per cent of the shares of such profitable state concerns as Repsol, the national oil company, and Endesa, the public electricity utility. The floats will leave the state with a controlling, though not necessarily a majority, interest in the companies. The government will also make more of an effort to prevent tax fraud, which is still rife.

Señor Solchaga has ruled out increasing taxes as a way



The Seat works producing for Spain: economic growth remains high.

of balancing the budget, however, so that the main focus of policy will be on a reform of public spending.

Spain has already had to limit state subsidies as a result of its EC membership. State aid is now restricted to a few loss-making companies that are vital for jobs because of where they are, or which are in crisis for structural reasons beyond the government's control. The loss-making companies are in steel, special

steels, shipbuilding, textiles and coal mining.

Even there, continued subsidies are conditional on thousands of job cuts. For example, 5,900 jobs are to be phased out at Hunosa, the state mining group in the Asturias, which now runs up the kind of annual losses that no government can support for long: 63 billion pesetas (£34 million) in 1990.

This restructuring of mines and of traditional in-

dustries will increase unemployment, especially as the economy as a whole has slowed down.

The growth rate has dropped from the average of 5 per cent achieved from 1987 to 1990 to 2.5 per cent in 1991. The government has projected a rate of 3 per cent for this year.

Unemployment rose in January for the fifth consecutive month,

and the official rate for

the country as a whole

is now 15 per cent.

Despite the deceleration, however, Spain's economic growth remains one of the highest in the EC.

Several economists

have doubts about the

accuracy of the official

unemployment figure,

because of the black

economy and moon-

lighting by social secu-

rity recipients. It is

small wonder, then,

that another area in

which Señor Solchaga

is keen to reform public

spending is unemploy-

ment benefits. This is not only

to prevent fraud, but also to

ensure that such money is used more productively.

He has proposed linking unemployment benefits to attendance at professional training programmes, which should be financed, at least in part, by the private sector.

The government is offering private companies a number of tax incentives to set up training programmes, and also to set aside resources for

investment in research and technology.

However, a recent report by the ministry of industry, based on a survey of Spanish companies in 19 sectors, found that practically no Spanish businesses used these incentives.

The report said that they had not used the opportunities presented by the five-year economic boom to invest in improvements in the quality of their products, in developing their distribution networks, or in increasing their sales abroad.

Instead, according to the report, Spanish companies continued putting their efforts into the domestic economy, seemingly unaware that the protectionism of the past was well and truly over in the rest of Europe.

The report also found that sales of technology products by Spanish companies abroad covered only 29 per cent of Spain's imports of technology in 1991, compared with an average coverage in such trade of between 60 and 90 per cent for Italy, Britain and France.

This was the principal reason, it said, why so many Spanish companies were sold to foreigners.

Another recent analysis of the economy, commissioned by Banco Bilbao Vizcaya, concludes that the only business with potential that will still be Spanish-controlled, as opposed to being controlled by multinationals, when the EC's single European market begins next year, will be fruit and vegetables.



The Madrid catwalk: fashion in Spain has its own style

Dressing up at the double

Spanish fashion goes on show twice a year, even though it lacks the glamour of France and Italy

Spainish fashion may slimmer against the dazzling chic of Paris and Milan, but few countries boast two major fashion shows. The Spanish kick off their fashion season with the Gaudi showing in Barcelona, and follow a week later with Cibeles in Madrid. However, tightening purse-strings and rivalry between Spain's two main cities have sparked a battle of the catwalks.

"Little by little the market for women's fashion has shifted towards Madrid, while that for men has stayed in Barcelona," says Teresa Martínez, of ICEX, the official export body, based in Madrid. In Barcelona the show is split into Gaudi Hombre for men and Gaudi Mujer for women. Juan Canals, who heads Gaudi Mujer, says there is room for Gaudi and Cibeles: "Each fashion show has its own public, its own designers."

Catalan designers tend to show at Gaudi and those from the rest of Spain at Cibeles. Both have their share of talent, but many in the fashion industry believe talent is not the decider.

Cibeles receives three times more government funding than Gaudi Mujer. As a result, the international buyers go to Cibeles although for men's fashion they attend Gaudi Hombre. Barcelona remains defiant, however, reminding the world of its roots as the heart of the Spanish textile industry.

The bright lights of Spanish fashion have many different backgrounds. They include a former rock musician, a dancer, a motorcycle designer, and the daughter of an Argentine diplomat and a Polish count.

These are unlikely beginnings for designers whose creations are paraded by leading models such as Linda Evangelista, but Spanish fashion for women emerged only with Madrid's cultural boom of the 1980s. In Franco's time, women would visit their *modista*, or dressmaker, clutching the latest Paris fashion pictures.

Even so, the designers feel left out in the cold. One designer says: "Madrid has thrown money at Cibeles, paying for designers to set up their shows and flying in buyers from around the world. But no attention has been paid to improving the fashion infrastructure." Many have linked up with international Italian or Japanese names to ensure quality manufacturing that meets sale order deadlines.

Antonio Miró, for instance, the long-established king of Barcelona fashion, who was once a member of a rock group, has joined forces with Ermengildo Zegna, the Italian fashion house, for his men's collection, though his women's clothing is still produced in Spain.

Since opening Groc, his shop in the Rambla de Catalunya, in the late 1960s, Miró has gone from strength to strength. His women's designs use plain colours and

have a strong, masculine cut, with such intriguing details as a discreet slash from neck to midriff. He has also designed the uniforms for the opening ceremony of the Olympics.

Most Catalan designers arrived on the scene in the 1980s. Armand Bast, the clothing company, brought in Chu Ozu, a 30-year-old former architecture and industrial design student, who has won prizes for his motorcycle designs. His graphic styles, worn by Madonna, are Spain's answer to London's street fashion. The message is: girls just want to have fun.

Lydia Delgado, a former dancer and photographer, is playing a different game. She has stayed small and at home. She shuns big financial backers who, she says, would "complicate her life", and operates from a small shop in a narrow street in a fashionable district of Barcelona. Her feminine variations of the "little black dress" are sold off the peg or made to measure in the tradition of the Spanish *modista*.

Cibeles' showpiece is the classic collection of Loewe, the Madrid fashion house that was set up in 1846 by a German immigrant and now has 30 shops outside Spain.

Adolfo Domínguez, who also shows at Cibeles, was one of the first Spanish designers to follow Loewe abroad. Like Roberto Verino, who sells his prêt-à-porter in El Corte Inglés, the department store, Domínguez comes from Galicia. His subdued colours verge on the sombre, reflecting the green countryside and grey clouds of his native region. His styles are safe — some say unadventurous — others practical and wearable.

For a rare slice of Mediterranean colour in Spanish fashion, Victorio y Lucchino (José Víctor Rodríguez Caro and José Luis Medina del Corral) find their inspiration in the fiery gypsy folklore of their native Andalusia, from where they make the twice-yearly trek to Cibeles. Their clothes sing of frills, mantilla lace and party spirit.

Not all Spanish designers have stayed at home. Sybilla, who is Spanish at heart, though born in New York and Argentine and Polish by birth, has moved into the Milan circuit after her link-up with Gibo, the Italian group whose star is Jean-Pierre Gauffier.

Sybilla, who trained with Yves Saint-Laurent in Paris, is seen as the most original of the Spanish designers. She has built up a fashion empire estimated at £1.5 million, and sells her designs in 140 shops around the world. She no longer shows in Spain, although she has kept her Madrid base.

As Europe's frontiers fall, and the big French and Italian names of fashion move into Spanish markets, all Spain's designers will have to look to their laurels.

GEORGINA POWER

to Seville '92

EXPO '92

SEVILLA

APRIL 20th - OCTOBER 12th, 1992

Now or never

Peter Strafford looks at three cities steeped in history and tradition which will provide the stage for this year's celebrations

An operatic setting for world fair

Seville is said to be the setting for at least 17 operas, including *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Fidelio*, *The Barber of Seville* and *Carmen*. It is not hard to see why. The old centre of the city is a picturesque maze of narrow streets, with houses painted white and ochre, ironwork balconies, little squares with fountains and coloured tiles, and, everywhere orange-trees. There is flamenco dancing in little bars.

Like other Andalusian cities, Seville was marked by the long Moorish presence in Spain. The Barrio de Santa Cruz, once the Jewish quarter, is flanked on one side by the huge Gothic cathedral, whose bell-tower, known as the Giralda, was originally the minaret of a Moorish mosque; and on another by the Alcazar, a fortress-palace which also dates back to Moorish times, but was rebuilt, in Moorish style, by Pedro the Cruel, King of Castile.

There could hardly be a greater contrast between this picture-book Spain, with its theatrical quality, and the ultra-modern world fair, Expo '92, which is about to open on its outskirts on April 20. But there were several reasons for holding the fair in Seville, and one of the strongest was its links with Christopher Columbus, and with the New World he discovered for Spain 500 years ago.

Columbus set sail on his first voyage to the New World from Palos, a small port west of Seville. He later worked on preparations for his third and fourth voyages at the Cartuja monastery, or Cartuja, of Santa María de las Cuevas on the outskirts of the city, and was buried there for a time. In the 16th century, during Spain's Golden Age, Seville grew rich on trade with the Americas.

Expo is to be held, therefore,

fore, on the Isla de la Cartuja, a stretch of land which, until building started, had nothing on it but the monastery. The Cartuja itself, carefully restored, is to be its centrepiece, and King Juan Carlos will use it to entertain official guests.

Alongside will be the dazzling array of late 20th-century architecture with which contemporary Spain, together with 109 other countries, 23 international organizations and six international corporations, is promoting itself. Altogether there will be 95 pavilions.

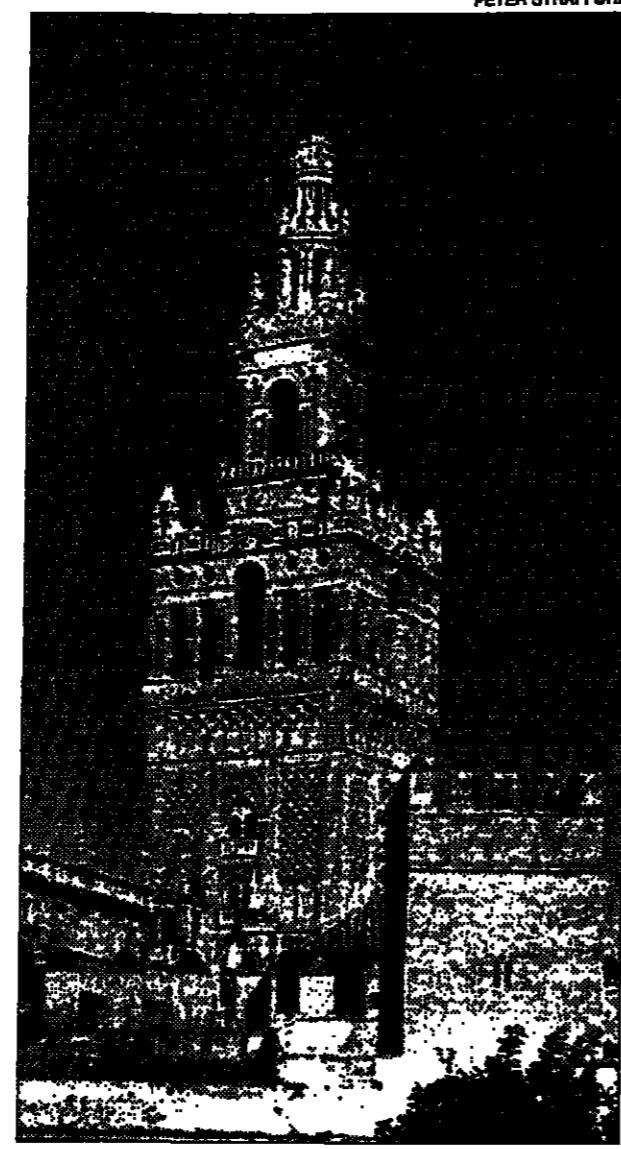
This is one less than originally planned because the Discoveries pavilion put up by the Spanish organisers, burnt down last month, but it is still more than any previous exhibition of this kind.

Some of the best-known architects in the world been asked to design these buildings. The British pavilion, for instance, is by Nicholas Grimshaw. Fully-grown trees, shrubs and plants have been imported on to the site, and efforts have been made to temper the fierce sun of southern Spain by providing water, shade and, in the covered spaces, a flow of air.

Overhead there will be cables that will give visitors a bird's-eye view of the site.

The Isla de la Cartuja is an artificial island, which lies between the old course of the Guadalquivir river, close to the centre of Seville, and a new course to which it was diverted some years ago to prevent flooding. Water flows along both, and seven new bridges, all built specially for the exhibition, now cross the Guadalquivir at various points. From Expo it is possible to look back across the river and see the Giralda towering over the old centre of Seville.

Seville has finally been given a new role as a high-technology research centre.



Inspiring sight: the Giralda, once the minaret of a mosque

There was also another, economic reason for the choice of Seville as the site of Expo. In recent centuries the economy has come down in the world, like the rest of Andalusia, and the whole region was badly in need of an economic fillip. Expo has been used, therefore, both by Madrid and by the regional and city governments, as an opportunity to provide Seville and Andalusia generally with the communications and other facilities that they need.

The public works have been unending, but new roads have been constructed, new hotels built, and by virtue of the new bridges, and the removal of railway lines, rundown areas have been rejuvenated.

Seville has finally been given a new role as a high-technology research centre.

Maestranza, at which opera can be performed.

Further afield, there are new motorways and dual carriageways, and the airport has a new terminal. Investments have been made in telecommunications.

Most controversially, because it is regarded by many outside Andalusia as a waste of public money, a high-speed train is to run on special track between Seville and Madrid.

There are two main aims:

to provide Andalusia with the modern communications which it needs, to link it with other parts of Spain and the rest of Europe; and to draw attention to the advantages the region offers to foreign investors.

After Expo it is over, the Isla de la Cartuja will have a new role as a high-technology research centre.

Olympian pride in the future

There are some patriotic Catalans who claim that Barcelona, the historic capital of their region, is not just a rival of Madrid, but "capital of the Mediterranean". It is a buoyant and attractive city that has always claimed to be more European in its outlook than Madrid, and it has been a hive of activity — and disruptive roadworks — since it was chosen as the site for this year's Olympic Games, to be held from July 25 to August 9.

It has a new airport terminal designed by Ricardo Bofill, the Spanish architect, a new communications tower by Norman Foster of Britain, and a new system of ring roads. It even has a new strip of coastline, with beaches and a marina, that has been opened up by the removal of a railway line that used to cut the city off from the sea.

The Olympic Games have provided the motivating force for public works that were in any case needed if Barcelona was to modernise itself and compete in the European single market. But Joan Maragall, the mayor, says confidently that much would have been done even without the Games.

Barcelona is an old city, founded as Barcino by the Romans, which became a power throughout the Mediterranean in the 13th and 14th centuries. It prides itself on having its own language, Catalan, which was suppressed under the Franco dictatorship, but has flowered since democracy returned to Spain after Franco's death, and is now the first language.

The city has several different faces. In its centre it is a well-preserved and evocative medieval town whose Barri Gòtic, or Gothic quarter, has small squares and narrow streets lined with palaces and townhouses, elegant courtyards, and a cathedral and

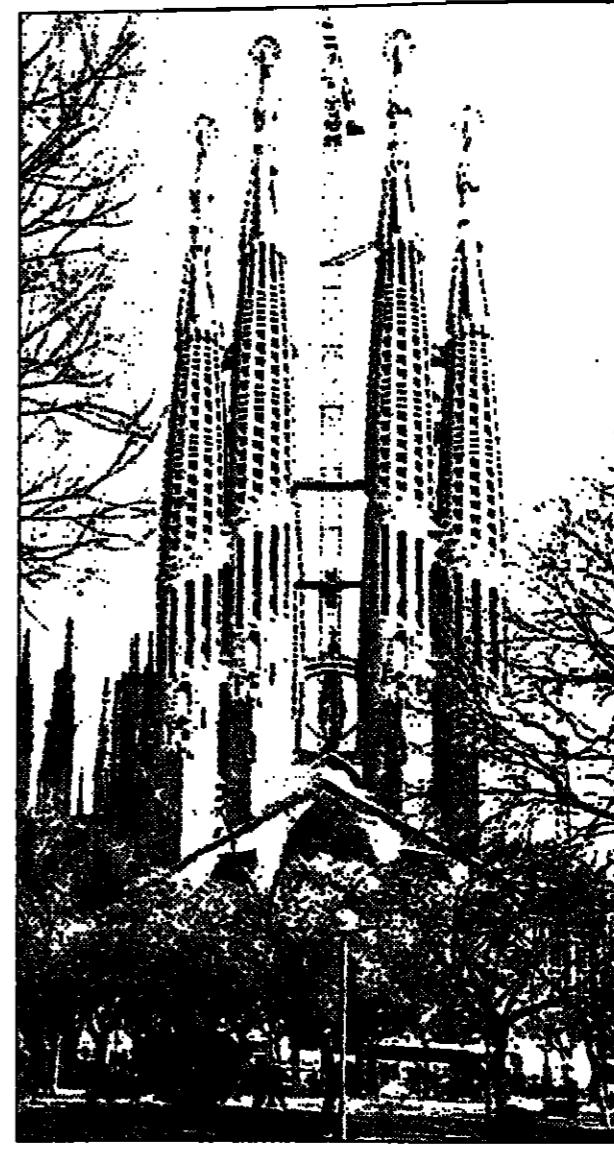
churches built in the distinctive Catalan Gothic style.

The ancient palace of the Generalitat, the government of Catalonia, and the equally imposing city hall confront each other across the Placa Sant Jaume. In the current state of Catalan politics they are held by opposing parties. Jordi Pujol, who was recently re-elected premier of the region of Catalonia, heads Convergencia i Unió, the moderate nationalist party, while Sènior Maragall is a socialist, and normally they are at odds. But their differences have been put aside in the preparations for the Olympic Games.

Further out are the wide boulevards that were built when the city expanded in the 19th century, and that have many of the masterpieces built by Antoni Gaudí and other Catalan architects of the modern movement in the late 19th and early 20th centuries — most spectacularly, Gaudí's still unfinished church of the Sagrada Família, whose eight eccentric spires soar above the city.

On the edge of the Barri Gòtic, following the line of the old city wall, are the Ramblas, a broad street with trees, newspaper kiosks, flower stalls and the constant cheeping of small birds being offered for sale in cages, where the citizens of Barcelona like to stroll at all hours of the day and night.

Like Madrid, Barcelona has become an influential centre for the arts, fashion and design, with an internationally known opera house, the Liceu, in the Ramblas, and numerous concert halls, museums and art galleries. It has exceptional collections of both Romanesque and Gothic paintings from the great days of Catalonia, a museum



Final touches: the spires of Gaudí's Sagrada Família

devoted to Joan Miró, a painter to Toulouse and Montpellier in France.

The principal site for the Olympic Games will be Montjuïc, a hill that overlooks Barcelona from the south.

The main stadium, originally built for earlier games in 1929, has been extensively remodelled.

Other events will be held in a new sports hall designed by Arata Isozaki, the Japanese architect, and a new sports university designed by Bofill.

Several other sites, in and around Barcelona, will also be used for different events. The Olympic village, where the athletes will stay, will be on the new coastal strip, with its own beaches, and after the Games are over the apartments will be sold as residential housing.

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The capital of the arts

Madrid, high up on Spain's central plateau, has recovered the position it once had as one of Europe's liveliest cities, with a reputation in the arts, fashion and design. As the Spanish capital, it was always an imposing city, with the Prado and numerous other museums, but in Franco's day Barcelona had more active cultural life.

That changed in the 1980s, when Madrid was gripped by the *movida*, or cultural whirl, and exhibitions and shows of all sorts began to be held throughout the city. The great north-south avenue, which begins at the Castellana, runs past the Prado, and ends in what used to be the run-down Atocha district, became the focal point. Arco, a display of contemporary art by dealers from round the world, became an annual event.

This year Madrid is to be European cultural capital, in succession to Glasgow and Dublin, and all the stops are being pulled out. Altogether some 1,800 events are promised by the organisers, including picture exhibitions, theatre, music, dance, and even a "gastronomic Olympic Games", in which there will be a competition between cooks from the various Spanish regions.

There will be a new museum, on city life in Madrid, a new theatre, a new open-air concert hall, and five new parks. Several old buildings will be refurbished, including the Panadería palace, which dominates the Plaza Mayor in the centre of old Madrid. Built in the 17th century, like the rest of the square, the palace is to be a cultural centre.

The main attraction, as always, will be the Prado, one of the great museums of the world, with its wealth, not just of Spanish painters — among them Velázquez, Goya, El Greco, Murillo and Zurbarán — but also of Italian, Flemish and Dutch masters. From May 30 to August 25 it will have a special exhibition of Jusepe de Ribera. The Prado is complemented by the Reina Sofia art centre, named after Queen Sofia, which was set up in 1983 in what had been Madrid's general hospital.

Built in the 18th century, this is a large, tall and solid building with vaulted rooms and corridors. It needed only



The Puerta de Toledo: one of the 1992 European cultural capital's attractions

the installation of lifts, which now shoot up and down transparent shafts on the outside of the building, to provide a roomy setting for contemporary art.

At any one time there may be as many as four or five simultaneous exhibitions under way, and the intention is to transfer the state collection of contemporary art to the Reina Sofia.

The other high spot, still not open, will be the collection of paintings which Baron Thyssen-Bornemisza has agreed to transfer to Madrid. The Villahermosa palace, near the Prado, is being refurbished so that it can take the collection, and Madrid pride themselves on the thought that this will make their city even more of a Mecca for an art-lover.

Madrid does not have the immediate charm of, say, Seville or Barcelona. But it has attractive parks, especially

ly the Parque del Retiro, with its lakes, gardens and long, tree-lined walks. The old part of the city, around the Plaza Mayor, is an appealing warren of narrow streets lined with shops, tapas bars and restaurants, where life goes on late into the night in a crowded, intimate atmosphere.

Madrid was created almost from nothing to be Spain's national capital. In the early 16th century, when Toledo and Valladolid, Barcelona and Seville were all important cities, it was no more than a small town, dominated by an Alcazar, or fort, that had originally been built as a defence by the Moors.

It had the advantage, however, of being in the geographical centre of the country. So in 1561, when Philip II decided that he needed a fixed capital, instead of travelling from place to place as his predecessors

had done, he picked Madrid. There is still a metal plate, set into the pavement in the Puerta del Sol, marking the point from which all distances are measured.

In past centuries the Plaza Mayor became the setting for public festivities, and also for some of the grimiest scenes in Spanish history. Public executions took place in the square, and the Inquisition held its auto da fe, or trials, there. The burnings of those found guilty were carried out outside the then city walls, running along the line of the present-day Castellana avenue.

The Puerta del Sol, nearby, is the traditional centre of the city. It was the setting for the street fighting that took place between the citizens of Madrid and the occupying French troops on May 2, 1808, and was made famous by Goya's painting, now in the Prado.

Learning past cul

Remote heartland hides historic treasures

Far away from the crowded tourist resorts lies Extremadura, writes Peter Strafford.
The region is full of ancient towns that gave birth to the hardy adventurers who conquered the Americas for Spain

Spain has made a point in the last few years of trying to attract visitors away from the beaches and into its less-known interior. It is not possible to get much further from the coasts than Extremadura, a region in the heart of the country that is still little developed and is full of echoes of Spain's tumultuous past.

Even the name of Extremadura has a remote and forbidding sound to it. It is one of Spain's poorest regions, lying on the border with Portugal, and this poverty

brought it its main claim to fame. Many of the *conquistadores*, the men who crossed the Atlantic to conquer the Americas in the 16th century, were emigrants from the bleak conditions of Extremadura.

They took with them the toughness and rapacity they had acquired there earlier in the wars against the Moors.

Francisco Pizarro, the conqueror of Peru, came from the old town of Trujillo, and a statue of him on horseback dominates its main square. Opposite is a palatial townhouse built by his family, with Indians in chains decorating the escutcheon.

Hernan Cortes, the conqueror of Mexico, also came from Extremadura, from Medellin, and so did Vasco Nunez de Balboa, who discovered the Pacific, and Francisco de Orellana, who first sailed down the Amazon.

Yet the region is not quite as rugged as it sounds. Its name is misleading, because Extremadura means no more than the land beyond the Duero, or Douro, river; the Christians gave it the name when they were pressing

down from the north in their long struggle to drive the Moors from the peninsula.

Extremadura forms part of Spain's central plateau and has rocky and mountainous areas, but much of it is flat farmland. It has two large rivers, the Tagus and the Guadiana, that flow through it.

The region has one of the world's greatest concentrations of cork trees, which are the basis of a thriving local industry, while vineyards and olive trees flourish in the south. Flocks of sheep browse on the grasslands and it is still possible to see a cart or a plough pulled by horses.

This archetypal Spanish region was first settled in prehistoric times, and later ruled successively by Romans, Visigoths and Moors. Its towns, still

carry the marks of this long and varied history.

Mérida is a good first stop for the visitor. It is now the seat of the regional government of Extremadura, and in its day was an important Roman metropolis.

Founded by Augustus in 25 BC as Augusta Emerita, it was the capital of the province of Lusitania, which included modern Portugal and a chunk of Spain. Towards the end of the Roman period it became the capital of a "diocese" which included the whole Iberian peninsula and part of North Africa.

Today it is a small town with a picturesque, almost Andalusian, main square, and some of the best surviving Roman remains in Spain. There is a theatre complete with a backdrop of marble columns, which is now the setting for a music festival, an arena nearby, and also a temple to Augustus. A Roman bridge more than half

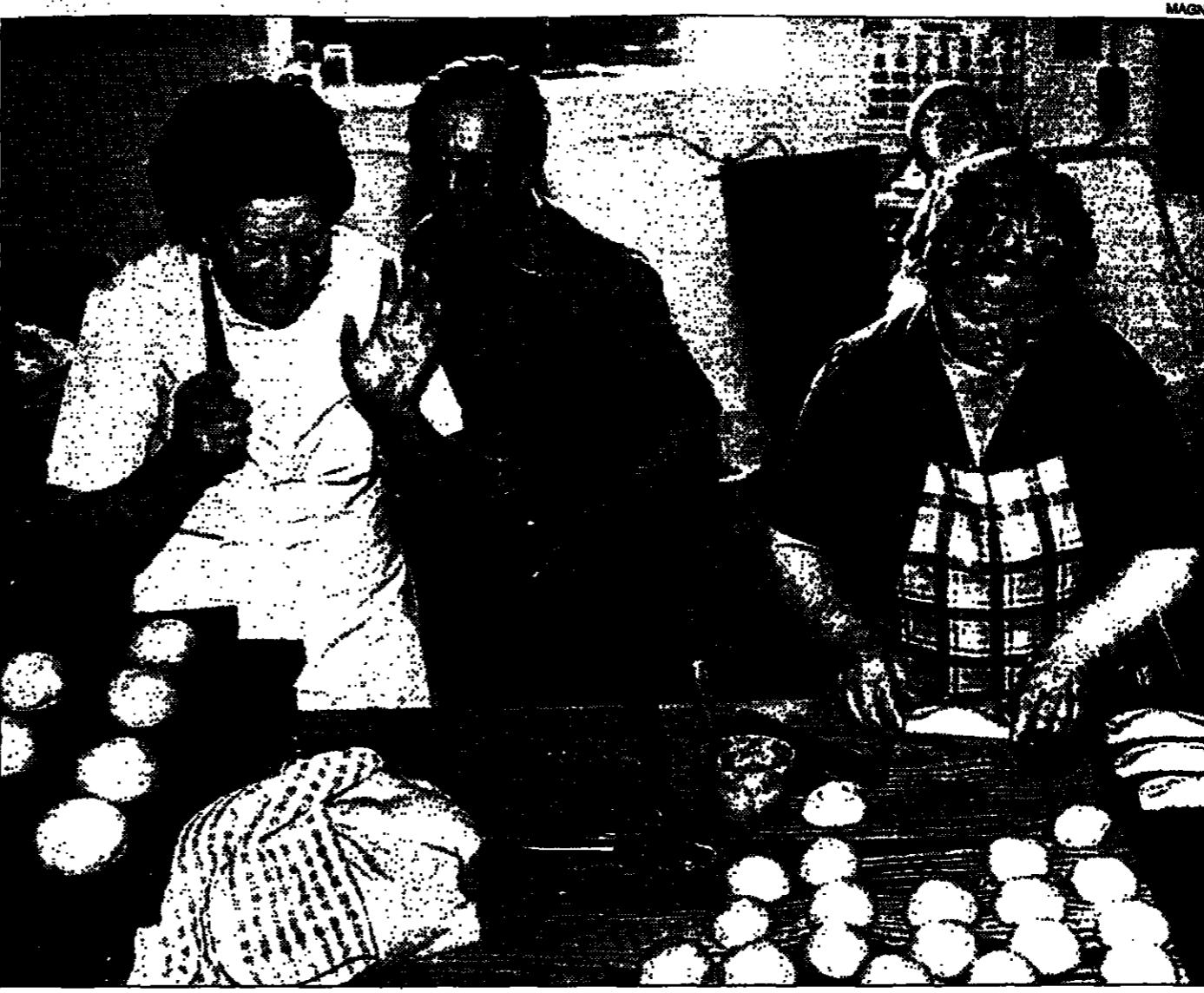
a mile long still strides across the Guadiana river, with a large Arab *alcázar*, or fort, at one end. The towering columns of a Roman aqueduct, appropriately known as Los Milagros, the miracles approach across a valley from another side.

Two Roman villas have decorative mosaics, and the newly-built, and imposing, National Museum of Roman Art has more,

as well as the many others found in the area — statues, relief carvings, paintings and glass.

To the north is a different world,

that of the *conquistadores*. The road is a former Roman trunk road, which the Arabs referred to as *balat*, or paved, and the



Birthplace of a conqueror: bakers in the old Extremadura town of Trujillo, where Francisco Pizarro, who overran Peru, was born

Christians corrupted to *plata*, so that it is now misleadingly known as the *Via de la plata*, or "silver road".

It leads to Cáceres, also a former Roman town, but now an evocative walled city with churches, monasteries, palaces and townhouses built with the proceeds of the conquests of the New World.

One of these houses, known as the Toledo-Moctezuma palace, was built by the Toledo family, a forebear of whom, Juan Cano de Saavedra, had married the daughter of Moctezuma, or Montezuma, the last Aztec emperor, and brought her back to Cáceres.

The old town of Cáceres has been named a World Heritage Site by Unesco. Within its walls, originally built by the Arabs, there is an astonishing complex of buildings constructed between the 15th and 18th centuries, largely in a golden-coloured stone which glows in the sunshine.

Not many of them are lived in, and that gives the narrow streets and irregular squares the appearance of a stage, or film, set.

Elaborate coats of arms have been carved on the townhouses, sometimes on the facades, sometimes on the outside corners.

Up above, wherever there is a church tower, storks have built their nests, and at the right times of year — in January, for example

— the air is filled with the strange clacking they make with their beaks when one of them flies down to meet its mate on a nest.

Not far from Cáceres is another survival, and an extraordinary one, of the Roman period: the Alcántara bridge that spans a gorge of the Tagus. Still in use, nearly 1,900 years after being built by the Emperor Trajan, it has a shrine at one end and a triumphal arch in the middle.

The *conquistador* theme is continued in Trujillo, a few miles in the other direction. It, too, was originally Roman, but the castle built by the Arabs and the towers of the *conquistadores* now dominate Trujillo's hilltop, visible from miles around.



The main square, the Plaza Mayor, has a dramatic quality, with the statue of Pizarro, imposing townhouses, and the rugged church of San Martin. Up above stone walls still encircle the old town.

Like Cáceres, Trujillo is a town to wander around. There, too, many of the old townhouses, built in more prosperous times, are now empty, and there are vacant spaces around the large Arab castle on the crest of the hill.

The narrow, winding streets, with their stone doorways, recall the days when tough men from Extremadura set off for the hardships of the New World, and those who were successful made their fortunes.

Before going, many of them will have visited Guadalupe, now a picturesque little village in the mountains east of Trujillo, which is still dominated by the battlements and towers of its huge monastery.

Its name, originally given to a nearby stream by the Arabs, was taken across the Atlantic by Christopher Columbus, who passed it on to the Caribbean island now known as Guadalupe.

The village's fame stems from the miraculous discovery of a statue of the Virgin Mary in 1300. Guadalupe became one of the main pilgrimage centres in Spain, and today the monastery is a treasure-house of paintings, manuscripts and embroidered vestments, presented to it over the centuries.

Its main cloister and much of its decoration are *mudejar*, the style taken from the Arabs. The sacristy has one of the best series of paintings by Francisco de Zurbarán, the religious painter known for his many portraits of saints, who came from Extremadura.

The paintings in Guadalupe were carried out especially for the monastery, and represent its outstanding priors.

Spain's Muslim and Jewish heritage is now recognised, writes James Woodall

That much of Spain's culture was Muslim and Jewish for almost 800 years may come as a surprise. It goes against the traditional images of the country's history: of Christian warriors and castles, El Cid, a reactionary Roman Catholic church, the Inquisition.

Yet 1492 was not only the year of Christopher Columbus's discovery of the New World. It was also the year of two other important events: the final defeat of Granada, the last Moorish kingdom in the peninsula, and the expulsion of the Jews from Spain.

Both events are being commemorated this year, not in a spirit of triumph, but with a view to making amends for past intolerance.

The truth is that for centuries Spain showed an almost studied determination to learn nothing from its Muslim and Jewish heritage. Yet there was much to learn.

The Muslims, who invaded the peninsula in 711, had by the end of the first millennium dug canals and irrigated the land, grown grapes and olives, and introduced rice, apricots, peaches, sugar-cane, cotton and oranges to the peninsula. They also produced poets, mathematicians, musicians and astronomers, making Córdoba at one time the most civilised city in western Europe.

And they were master-builders. The great mosque of Córdoba, the Giralda tower in



Muslim reminder: the great mosque of Córdoba

Learning from past cultures

March 31, 1492, was royal legitimisation of long-endured anti-Semitism. With the Muslims ejected from their last stronghold, Isabella and Ferdinand, the victorious Catholic Monarchs, turned their attention to the Jews.

All Sephardim were given the option of converting to Christianity if they wanted to stay in Spain, and many of them took it. But those who decided to remain lived their lives in fear of the Inquisition and its informers, which would seize on any hint that their conversion might not have been genuine.

Like the Muslims, the Jews were skillful builders, though less of their work remains. The two remarkable synagogues in Toledo, now known as El Tránsito and Santa María la Blanca, are the best known, though a smaller one in Córdoba is another jewel in the Sephardic crown.

The expulsion edict of

Toledo was also the seat of the famous School of Translators, made up of Muslims, Jews and Christians, which had considerable impact on medieval European learning.

Maimonides, the Jewish philosopher, published his *Guide for the Perplexed*, one of the great spiritual treatises of the medieval era, in Córdoba. Averroë, a Muslim thinker who attained English literary immortality at the end of the 14th century when Chaucer mentioned him in the Prologue to *The Canterbury Tales*, also lived in that city.

The achievements of the Muslims and Jews in Spain were broadly cultural, in scholarship, literature, music and architecture. The Jews, however, also made astute financiers for the conquering Christian kings, while the Muslims had long been important traders.

The extent to which this

fertile land, in religious terms, annually tolerant period has left its imprint on Spain is difficult to assess. It is indisputable that numerous Arabic words have filtered through to modern Spanish, while the religious rituals of Andalucía and flamenco, its folk music, owe something to the spirit of Islam.

But historians have been debating since the Fifties the respective merits of what can broadly be called the pro-Christian and pro-Judaean-Muslim tendencies.

The first was defined by Claudio Sánchez Albornoz, whose view, supported by historians of his school to this day, was that the Muslim-Jewish strain in Spain's history was an irrelevance. Spain's destiny, he argued, was inextricably linked to the concept of unity under one crown and one creed. The 800-year-long campaign to achieve it was wholly necessary.

The opposing view, espoused by Américo Castro in *The Structure of Spanish History*, is that the only way to understand Spain is to acknowledge its many cultural and religious layers, Muslim, Jewish and Christian, and to accept the influence of all of them on the Spanish psyche.

Today Spaniards are more concerned, like other Europeans, with their prosperity, rights, education and health than with being singularly "Spanish", or with a distant Muslim or Jewish past. Both in the education system

and in the media there is a lack of information about Muslim and Jewish Spain.

The hope is that the programmes planned for 1992 will provide pointers to that past.

"Al-Andalus 92, the Rediscovery of Arab Spain" will have its base in Granada. It will include exhibitions and scientific meetings on Muslim Spain, accompanied by moves to forge closer ties with the Muslim nations of North Africa.

"Sephard 92" will be a parallel programme which will have Toledo as its capital. One proposal is to re-establish the School of Translators in the city.

Its most dramatic event,

however, will be a formal disavowal by King Juan Carlos of the expulsion decree, to take place in a Madrid synagogue on March 31, 500 years to the day since the original order.

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INFOTECH TIMES

A pen mightier than the keyboard

The personal computer industry has for years been looking for ways of making its products easier to use. First it tried changing the layout of the keyboard, but always came back to some variation on the traditional Qwerty style used on typewriters.

Then came the mouse, which fits in the palm of a hand and lets the user move pictures and text around on the screen by shifting the mouse on top of a desk. Although the mouse and the use of the graphic-based software that goes with it have become commonplace, the mouse is no help for anybody who does not want to use a keyboard.

Enter the electronic pen, a fairly simple and obvious idea but more powerful than it might appear on first inspection. The user controls the system by writing with an electronic pen on a specially developed liquid crystal display flat screen attached to a completely flat computer, which lies underneath the screen.

The computer recognises handwriting, so long as it is not joined up, then turns it into standard computer text which can be read, edited or revised by somebody else on a standard personal computer.

In addition, the pen can entirely

Geof Wheelwright on a method of putting information into computers that does not include typing or a mouse

replace any other method of inputting information, allowing users to issue commands, and move both text and pictures around the screen — without the need for a mouse or keyboard.

Software designers are toying with other ideas that might make the pen mightier than the keyboard. One of these is the use of "gestures", which will allow users to edit material already typed into a computer by making protractor-style marks on the computer screen.

A second innovation is the development of "ink" as a computer data type. This means that the electronic pen can be used to draw pictures — and even to write a signature — which are stored as drawn and can be combined with text in a document.

All of these things are a reality in a number of pen-based computing products, the most important of which is Pen Windows from the giant company Microsoft.

"We have 100 people working on it," says Bill Gates, the chairman of Microsoft. "I see pen-based com-

puter systems as the next generation of portable computers."

Pen-based computers are initially being aimed at giving computational power to those who cannot, because of their jobs, use standard computers with keyboards. This group includes delivery truck drivers, utility meter readers, police officers, poll takers, and others who presently use a clipboard in their normal business functions.

The Grid computers are the size of a thick notebook, with one side devoted to a screen where the user writes using a special pen. Mobil Oil, for example, is to switch 150 engineers in the company's commercial sales and marketing division from creating paper lubrication instructions for customers to creating the same instructions on the Gridpad, a pen-based computer manufactured by Grid Systems.

The Grid computers are the size

of mobile workers filling out forms and having them keyed into central computer systems when they arrive back at base; they can use pen-based computers to fill in work orders, inspection reports and other detailed forms and immediately send their work via the telephone.

Previously inspecting large facilities could take two or three weeks, with charts drawn by hand on paper, then sent to headquarters for transcription by a word processor.

One of the biggest early markets for pen-based computers, however, is likely to be in the Far East, where many languages including Japanese, Chinese and Korean comprise thousands of characters, making it very difficult to design

keyboards which can be easily used by the average business person.

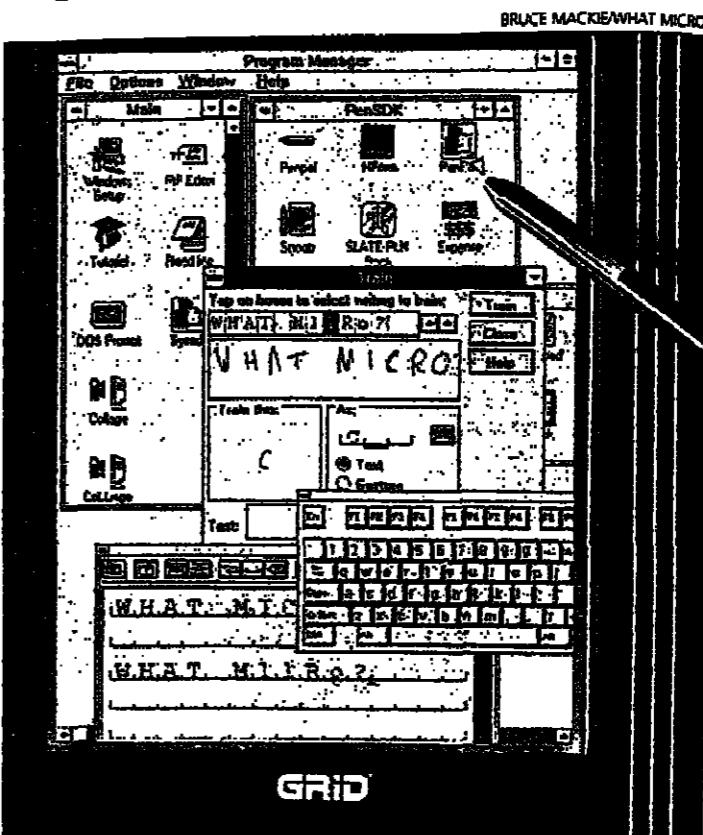
An electronic pen on the other hand, would, for many, be a much easier way of computerising their work. In fact it was Sony which pioneered the pen notebook market in 1989 with its Palmtop computer, which can recognise the major 3,535 Japanese characters.

Although it also has a built-in microphone and speaker, this is only for recording and playing back up to eight seconds of sound.

There is still some way to go before a solution to the next holy grail of personal computing arrives — speech recognition that will require neither keyboard or pen.

Recording and recognising speech is more difficult than handwriting recognition and the development of pen-based computers. It requires far more computer power, more memory and better software — all of which are not yet ready.

There are still those who believe that work on both speech recognition and pen-based computing is a step backwards. When the personal computer industry has spent more than a decade getting users comfortable with Qwerty keyboards, why confuse the issue by handing them old technology such as pens and microphones?



Write on: the electronic pen, a fairly simple and obvious idea

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Terminally irritating

Chief executives who use computers are not the IT director's best friend

want," one happy managing director says.

"Jargon is still a fear among chief executives," Mr Palmer says, "and is particularly a problem when they meet other people in the computer department who lapse into technobabble."

But if IT directors can avoid such pitfalls, they can benefit from being seen as more honest and with a higher integrity than other directors. "They are one of the few directors who have a broad view of the business because they see all parts of it and so are often seen by chief executives as much more neutral figures," Mr Palmer says.

"But they must have good social skills, which are sometimes rare among computer people."

The strongest similarity in the happy group was a shared belief of the use of new technology. Not surprisingly, nearly all the IT directors saw their field as a way to change the way a business operates, rather than more mundane objectives such as using technology simply as a cheap alternative to employing people. As one said, "I don't want to run a data processing department I want to transform this organisation."

Only six of the 14 MDs agreed, however, but this included all five of the happy group.

Successful relationships were also more likely in companies with an informal culture that emphasised such things as teamwork, workshops and educational events, compared with the "unhappy" companies that tended to stress formal processes such as regular meetings and prepared presentations.

Although IT directors need not be board members, the report found a clear need for them at least to be part of an inner sanctum. They should not have to wait to prove themselves before being admitted.

If chief executives really cannot see the IT director as a "cabinet" member, the implication is that a new director is needed," the report says.

A comment likely to cause despondency to hard-pressed computer manufacturers, was the view of one managing director, echoed by others, who defined a good IT director as one who "won't suggest that each new product heralds a new world order".

MATTHEW MAY

"Which Computer?" Show.

Sun Microsystems will be represented by Morse at the "Which" Show (NEC, Birmingham, April 7 to 10). Keynote displays will include E-Mail and V-Mail (Asterix), real time multimedia in Sun Windows (Raster Ops), Document Image Processing (Open Image Systems), etcetera.

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Sun Microsystems Computer Corporation

All change for the new digit

Only two years after London's telephone numbers were split, BT is planning another revolution, as Barry Fox reports

Anybody buying new telephone equipment, whether a company switchboard, private payphone or automatic fire or security system, should for many months now have been asking the sales staff some very important questions about future-proofing.

Anybody designing private or business stationery should be aware that it will need revision in two years' time. Likewise, anyone paying for signs on vans or premises should be leaving space for an addition.

Over the Easter weekend in 1994 all 30 million telephone numbers in the United Kingdom will change. Every number will grow by an extra "service" or S digit at the front, usually a 1. All stationery and signs will need to be changed, just as they had to be changed two years ago in London when the 01 code split into 071 and 081. "Correct numbering really does matter. People dialling without the correct code initially heard a recorded announcement in London. That has now stopped. Incorrect dialling gets an unobtainable tone."

All telephone equipment with a memory, from office switchboards to domestic memory phones, fax machines, computer modems, automatic fire and burglar alarms and emergency helplines for the aged, will need re-programming. For security reasons, alarm systems are deliberately designed to resist re-programming by anybody other than an authorised engineer.



Richard Cox warning

Some equipment may not be able to handle more than ten digits.

When the change was announced, Ofel, BT and Mercury all scolded industry fears that the cost to subscribers could be many billions of pounds. But none could point to any research on the true cost of the change, or on how much equipment will have to be jettisoned.

"We won't know until it happens," says Alan Croft, BT's project manager for the national code change. Mercury says that it is

anybody, anywhere in the world,

with UK numbers stored in memo-

ry phones, fax machines or comput-

er systems will have to re-program-

them. Most fax machines, for ex-

ample, will interpret a recorded

annoucement as a failed call, and

just keep on trying.

Arguably the most important

repercussion of the change will be

the need to modify, and in some

cases replace, equipment that relies

on the first few digits for vital

functions.

Telephone numbering involves

complex mathematics. Ofel took

over theoretical responsibility for

the job from BT in April 1990.

Although Ofel talks of the new,

national change as being from nine

to ten digits, the move is in reality

from ten to 11 digit working.

This is because, for national dial-

ling, the long distance dial-

ling prefix 0 must be added before the ten digits. Much of

ofice equipment relies on only

the first four digits to control

billing and call barring. Add-

ing a fifth digit may cause prob-

lems, while

investigating. Ovum, the consultants, estimate the total cost at about £1 billion, with most on stationery and only a small proportion on hardware.

Richard Cox, of Mandarin Technology, an independent telecommunications consultancy, has given a warning that all the software modern switchboard equipment relies on to route and bar calls will have to be re-written. The National Computing Centre believes that it could take months and cost up to £100,000 to modify a company's private network of 20 switchboards.

Mr Cox also says that "smart boxes", which automatically route long-distance calls via Mercury to save money, will need modification, which could disadvantage Mercury. All private payphones will also need modification because

they use the first four digits of the number to charge for calls.

To add to the confusion, the way in which BT has divided Britain into urban and rural areas uses only 3 per cent of the thousand million numbers theoretically available.

France achieves efficiency of 16 per cent, the United States 17 per cent and Japan 6 per cent. Mr Cox estimates that if BT revised its existing system, simply by expanding areas with under-used codes, it could provide a further 200 million spare numbers, while still aligning with BT's policy of letting numbers give a rough idea of a subscriber's location.

That would be enough to take Britain through to the turn of the century, when the European Commission in Brussels plans to harmonize the European numbering, giving yet another change.

Mr Cox believes that the change is avoidable, and that there are viable alternatives. He has conducted studies which suggest that

Britain is badly under-using the existing numbering systems. The way in which BT has divided Britain into urban and rural areas uses only 3 per cent of the thousand million numbers theoretically available.

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Line management: an extra digit is planned for Easter 1994, but how much will it cost industry?

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Making friends

NEARLY nine out of ten American electronics companies have formed alliances with rivals and friends to improve their ability to compete, according to a survey of chief executive officers.

At the same time, the survey finds, companies are shifting their emphasis from innovation and keeping employee talent to product quality and customer service. The change comes as computer and electronics buyers seek machines that are easy to use, not just powerful.

In 1991, 73 per cent of the executives surveyed by Ernst & Young reported they were engaged in an alliance with another firm.

In the 1992 survey of 455 top electronics executives, 89 per cent reported they had formed alliances.

Database move

MICROSOFT is to buy a small software developer that specializes in database programs, the one significant area in which the world's largest software company has no notable presence. Microsoft will pay about £100 million for the company.

ON LINE

Hi-def success

INVENTORS in America have shown a new type of high-definition television that they say has overcome one of the drawbacks of the current Japanese system.

The American Television Alliance transmitted its digital signal over a Washington TV channel. Though other HDTV systems, such as Japan's NHK system, produce similar film-quality pictures they require a special wide signal band to carry the information, something ordinary TV channels do not have.

The system uses digital encoding to squeeze huge amounts of information into the limited bandwidth designed in the 1930s for a squarish black-and-white image.

Apple has also modified a scanner which can handle black-and-white images to work with IBM-type PCs.

Plane talking

CONTINENTAL Airlines is to install an air-to-ground telephone system in 78 of its planes from this summer. It will use GTE Airfone's Seafone system, which provides an air-to-ground telephone in each first-class seatback or centre console, and two or more phones in each row of economy.

Next year, the airline will begin to provide systems that give passengers not only the ability to make phone calls but also personal computer connections and data services at their seats. The system will also provide seat-to-seat calling.

Seeing double

PACIFIC Bell has formed an alliance with IBM and Northern Telecom to research and test technology that could lead to desktop teleconferencing. The companies said the multimedia applications could allow users simply to dial others on their personal computers, see each other and use a shared computer window to edit documents jointly.

Rocketing on

AUSTRALIA'S Optus group will continue with plans for China to launch its first telecommunications satellite, despite a failed attempt on Sunday when the American-made satellite was stranded on the launch pad by a rocket failure.

Chinese officials recovered the satellite, undamaged, from the Long March 2E rocket and Optus expects a further launch to be made in about three months.

The Chinese information ministry said the launch was halted as part of fail-safe measures after one of the eight engines on the rocket developed abnormal thrust. The satellite had been scheduled to join orbit with three that provide telecommunications facilities for Australia and New Zealand.

"Executive information systems are political. You're changing information flow, and that's threatening."

- Harvard Business School *



* Authors: John F. Radant and David DeLong, 'Executive Support Systems' Business One Irwin, Homewood, Illinois, USA.

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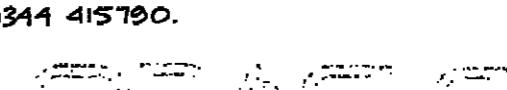
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OUR PURPOSE IS COMMON KNOWLEDGE

- CRICKET 34
- RACING 34, 35
- RUGBY UNION 36

THE TIMES SPORT

FRIDAY MARCH 27 1992

HUGH ROUTLEDGE

Clive Allen makes surprising transfer to West Ham

Chelsea attract £1.2m in deadline sell-up

BY CLIVE WHITE

CHELSEA were at the centre of potentially £1.2 million worth of business on transfer deadline day yesterday, and it was all in the role of seller.

In a surprising move, Clive Allen joined West Ham United for £275,000 just three months after arriving at Stamford Bridge, while Jason Cundy, the England Under-21 central defender, went to Tottenham Hotspur on loan with a view to a permanent £750,000 move.

The exodus from Stamford Bridge was completed by Kevin Wilson, who was sold to Notts County for £150,000.

Ken Bates, the Chelsea chairman, stressed that the sales had nothing to do with the proposed purchase of the ground from Cabra Estates, in which he yesterday bought a 27 percent stake. "Ian Porterfield wants to change things around, that's all."

The departure of Allen and Cundy will come as a particular surprise to Chelsea supporters. Allen had been hailed as the bargain buy of the season after his £250,000 move from Manchester City, and Cundy was seen by many, including Andy Townsend, the captain, as definitely one for the future.

Allen had scored nine goals for Chelsea, but with the club

now out of the FA Cup and their first division future secure, they obviously decided it was time to cash in on football's wandering star, who has now changed clubs for a total of £6.4 million over a period of 12 years.

Because he is suspended, Allen's first game for his new club will be against Chelsea on April 4. "I've said all along that we needed quality players to help in our present position, and Clive is certainly one of those," Billy Bonds, the West Ham manager, said.

Cundy's loan move to White Hart Lane is similar to the deal that the financially hamstrung Tottenham club has arranged with Crystal Palace over the temporary transfer of Andy Gray, who is set to sign for the club at the end of the season.

Cundy has been a first-team regular this season, developing a good understanding with Paul Elliott in central defence. He ought to be of particular benefit to Tottenham in their efforts to avoid relegation.

An eminently more predictable transfer was that of Alan McLaughlin, from Southampton to Portsmouth for £400,000. Southampton had agreed a fee with their south coast neighbours some weeks ago while the player was on loan to Portsmouth, but were

reluctant to complete it while there was a chance that the two sides might meet in the FA Cup.

With Southampton out of

that competition, the Republic of Ireland international is now able to start rebuilding his career, which had stagnated at the Dell following his move there two seasons ago from Swindon Town. Portsmouth will now be at liberty to play him in the play-offs and against anyone they choose at Wembley, should they beat Liverpool in next week's semi-final.

Coventry City have signed Les Sealey, of Aston Villa and formerly Manchester United, on loan until the end of the season. Steve Ogrizovic, the first choice, is still on crutches after injuring his ankle in training and Clive Baker, his understudy, is recovering from an appendix operation.

Sealey began his career at Highbury Road. Like Allen, he is not available on Saturday against Tottenham at the end of the season.

Geoff Thomas, the England midfield player, last night signed a four-year contract with Crystal Palace. Thomas has agreed a deal that will keep him at Palace until he is 31.

The Palace captain said: "I would not have contemplated staying if I thought the club was not going places. People

Strike moves, page 37

Allen completes his eighth move

BY CLIVE WHITE

ONE can say, with some degree of certainty, that Clive Allen is never likely to be awarded a testimonial. Indeed, he has rarely ever stayed long enough at one club to benefit from an annual increment, nor that has meant he has lost out financially from his wanderings. Far from it.

Allen's nomadic existence, which continued yesterday with the eighth move of his career from Chelsea to West Ham United, is not just about money. It is about the appreciation of a quality that clubs place an absolute premium on, goal-scoring and few players are as consistently good at it as Allen.

"He is probably the finest vollyer, half-volleyer and manipulator of goal-scoring chances from six to 20 yards as there is around today," David Pleat, the Luton Town manager, said.

Pleat, when manager of Tottenham Hotspur, had the privilege of seeing Allen score 49 goals in a season — an achievement without

Arsenal paid Queen's Park Rangers £1.25 million for him 12 years ago and were not dissatisfied with the business, despite the fact he never kicked a ball for them in the 62 days he was at the club. He was exchanged for Kenny Sansom of Crystal Palace, before the start of the 1981-82 season.

Allen, aged 30, is the third member of his family to play for West Ham. Martin, his cousin, is there now and Paul, another cousin, played for them before joining Tottenham.

Even so, he was naturally delighted to continue his rehabilitation. He does not

Seaman's standards slip under close scrutiny

BY STUART JONES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

DAVID Seaman is letting his international career slip through his trembling fingers.

Although his standards are consistently high for Arsenal, the nation's most expensive goalkeeper demonstrated in Prague on Wednesday that he is incapable of safely handling England's security.

His ability is beyond dispute. But his temperament, first doubted in the fixtures against the Republic of Ireland and Argentina last year, was so evidently shaky against Czechoslovakia that Graham Taylor can scarcely afford to retain him even as understudy to Woods.

It could be beneficial that Seaman's nerves have been

exposed now rather than in the European championship, where one error could be costly. He committed several against Czechoslovakia, whose second goal went through his legs.

"It would be silly to say anything other than his was an unhappy performance," Taylor, the England manager, said yesterday.

Taylor has a dilemma. With only two months to go before the squad leaves for the final build-up to the tournament in Sweden, he must either maintain his trust in a vulnerable reserve goalkeeper or call in a replacement, such as Martyn, who will inevitably be short of experience.

Seaman himself, is something of a novice. Introduced in Saudi Arabia four years ago, he had started on only

four other occasions before Wednesday.

A lack of genuine practice for such a specialised position can be damaging — as Taylor was reminded by a former England goalkeeper on Wednesday.

Peter Bonetti, given three hours' notice before replacing Gordon Banks in the World Cup quarter-final against West Germany in 1970, concedes that he was caught cold in his first outing for six months. Pointingly, perhaps, it was also to be his last for England.

Taylor has not been afraid to experiment. He has so far picked 48 players, including no fewer than 21 in the last two internationals. The tests have been exhaustive, particularly recently, but few results have been positive.

He has found an assured young right back. Jones, although he was not originally scheduled to make his debut last month.

He has also promoted two gifted forwards, Shearer and Merson, both of whom marked their first appearances with a goal. They have shown that, unlike Seaman, they can "cope with the big time", as Taylor puts it.

All three have probably earned the right to be selected in the squad for the European championship, which will be partially used to prepare for the World Cup qualifying ties next season.

Yet their promise has been outweighed by other individual and collective shortcomings.

England were so shapeless before the interval at Wem-

WBO title chance earned

BY BRYAN STILES

COLIN McMillan, one of the most gifted and intelligent boxers in Britain, is to challenge for a world title much earlier than he expected. He is to meet Mauricio Stecca for the Italian's World Boxing Organisation featherweight title at the Alexandra Palace, London, on May 2, in a package worth £600,000.

McMillan, who chose boxing as his profession after securing seven O levels and three A levels at school, had planned a course to bring him to world championship status by the end of this year, but he feels he is mature enough to take up the challenge six weeks from now.

The deal was concluded as the boxers met again in London yesterday following their successful non-title bouts the previous evening against Mexican opponents at a Dagenham leisure centre. Both won in the sixth round. McMillan against Tommy Valdez and Stecca against Roy Muniz. Both were impressive and both, naturally, declared yesterday that they were confident of victory on May 2.

McMillan said: "The time is right for me to take the title. It has come quicker than I expected, but I am confident. I saw a few weaknesses last night that I can exploit. He looks good, but I have the experience and the ability to beat him."

Stecca, who comes from Rimini, and had to speak mostly through an interpreter, smiled and said very little, except: "Si, he is a good fighter. I have seen him on video and live, and there is a difference. McMillan is much stronger than on video. Si, I will win."

Frank Warren, the promoter, said it was second only to the package he had put together for the Terry Marsh v Akio Kameda, International Boxing Federation welterweight contest in July, 1987.

McKenzie's reward, page 37

Yorkshire turn to Tendulkar

FROM MITCHELL PLATT, GOLF CORRESPONDENT, IN PONTE VEDRA, FLORIDA

NICK Faldo yesterday found something like his old game, if not his putting touch, when he moved into contention for The Players' Championship with a first round of 68 here on the TPC Stadium course.

Billy Ray Brown, of the United States, captured the early lead by equalising the course record with a 64, eight under par. But Faldo buckled down to the task of getting back on track following a disappointing performance when he missed the halfway cut in the Nestlé Invitational at the Bay Hill last week.

José María Olazábal and Sandy Lyle scored 69 and 71 respectively but Severiano Ballesteros and Ian Woosnam each took 75.

Faldo's 68 was his lowest score in 22 rounds on this course and it would have been better if he had putted with more authority. He has switched to a new putter but still failed to capitalise on several fine approach shots.

Faldo is in good heart at the moment, following two wins in Europe, and he was able to digest the disappointment of taking six at the 16th, where he struck a tree with three successive shots. He had five birdies.

EARLY LEADING FIRST-ROUND SCORES (US dollars): 64: B F Brown, 67: S Ballesteros, N Woosnam, 68: J Faldo, S Simpson, T Purser, B Sander, D Tewell, S Gump, J Maggert, D Edwards, D Palmer, J Eberle, J Ladd, J Ladd, J Ladd, J Adair, B McCaffery, P Stewart, R Tracy, J-M Chabalier (Sp), J Sánchez, 70: R Fehr, R Williams, W Letham, D Palmer, D Palmer, Ladd, S Lunn, C Pirie, 71: A Ladd, 72: A North, 73: R Davis (Aus), F Couples, 75: S Balmer (Sp), 1 Woosnam, 77: C Strange.

Obituary, page 17

England's errors, page 34

YORKSHIRE are to offer terms to Sachin Tendulkar, the young Indian batsman. He is being sought as a replacement for the Australian fast bowler Craig McDermott, who withdrew from his contract because of injury (Martin Searby writes).

Tendulkar, aged 19 next month, is discussing a contract to become Yorkshire's first overseas player through his intermediary, Sunil Gavaskar.

Although Yorkshire's prime need is for a fast bowler, Tendulkar will fulfil the requirement of the sponsor, Yorkshire Television, of being a crowd-puller.

He made his first class debut at 15, was capped at 16 and has already made centuries against England and Australia.

BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOS: Richie Richardson will captain West Indies in next month's Test match against South Africa.

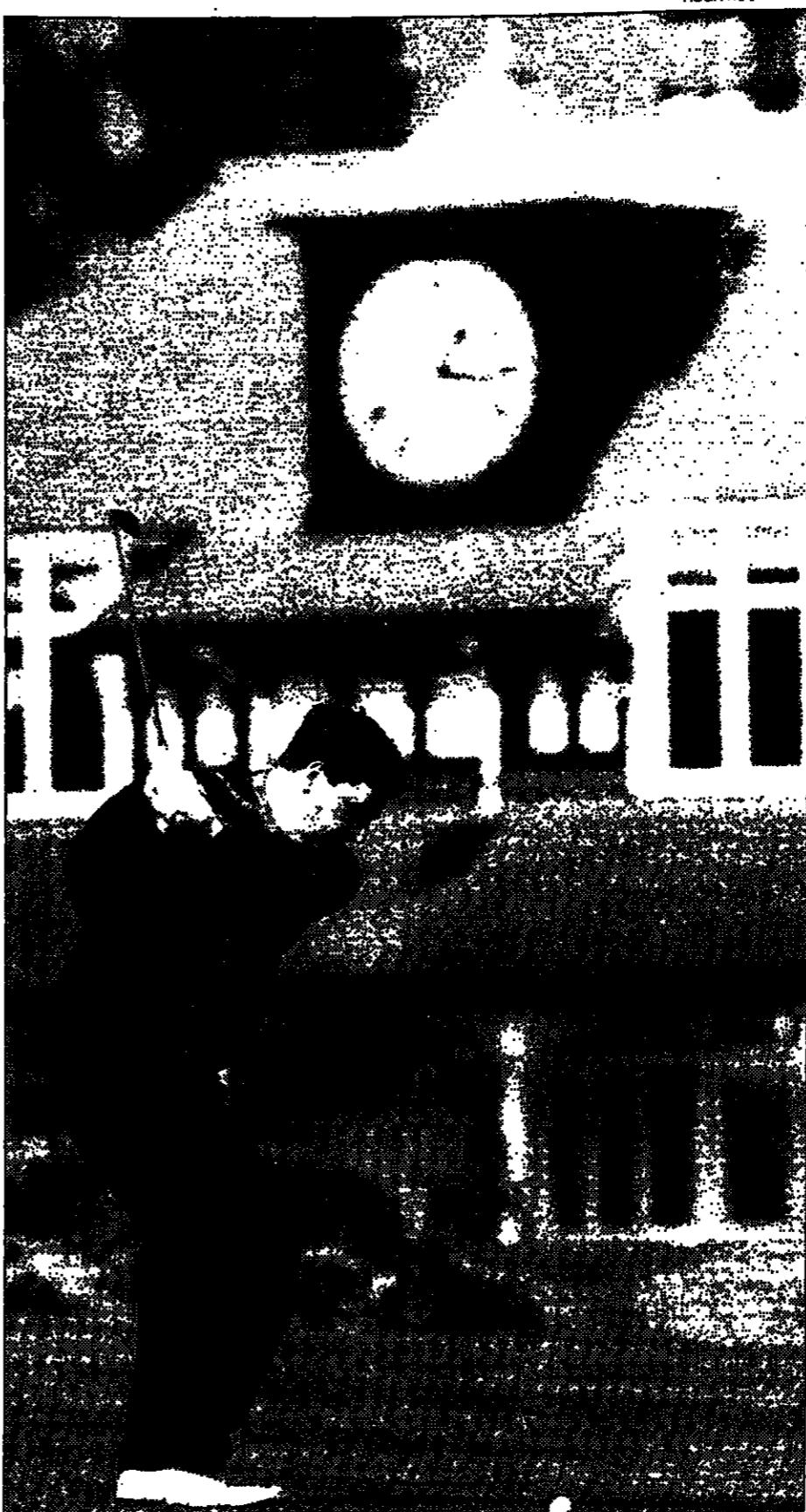
England's errors, page 34

YORKSHIRE as a whole, was often painful.

The education promises to continue in Moscow next month. Someone must be found to occupy the right flank — possibly Sinton or, preferably, Steven — and especially the area that remains the weakest, midfield. Taylor indicated that the versatile Palmer, who shone in the B team on Tuesday, may be tried there.

The search for the most suitable line-up is scheduled to end before the fixtures in Hungary and against Brazil in May. That will be a relief. So far the changes, some of which have been enforced, have produced more chaos and confusion than shafts of enlightenment.

★ 1X



Heading for overtime: Derrick Cooper plays to the 18th hole during the Sunningdale Foursomes yesterday morning. Victory at the first extra hole earned him a place in today's semi-finals. Report, page 36

THE SEASIDE'S LEADERSHIP CHANGES

DATE	PLAYER	CLUBS	FEES
15-08-91	Trevor Steven	Rangers to Marseilles	£25,000
05-09-91	Keith Curle	Wimbledon to Man City	£25,000
23-09-91	Ian Wright	C Palace to Arsenal	£25,000
15-09-91	Gordon Durie	Chelsea to Tottenham	£20,000
26-09-91	Marco Gabbiadini	Sunderland to C Palace	£18,000
03-10-91	Steve Staunton	Everton to Luton	£15,000
20-10-91	Earl Barrett	Cheltenham to Ashton Villa	£17,000
31-08-91	Kingsley Black	Luton to Notts Forest	£15,000
18-11-91	Maurice Johnston	Rangers to Everton	£15,000
13-12-91	Michael Thomas	Arsenal to Liverpool	£15,000
10-03-92	Paul Gilson	Leicester to Derby	£130,000
02-03-92	Kevin Wilson	Rangers to Liverpool	£125,000
14-08-91	Chris Woods	Rangers to Shelf Wed	£120,000
15-08-91	Stuart McCall	Everton to Rangers	£120,000
08-11-91	Dale Gordon	Norwich to Rangers	£120,000
31-01-92	Marco Gabbiadini	C Palace to Derby Co	£120,000
02-08-91	Steve Staunton	Liverpool to Aston Villa	£110,000
14-11-91	Mike Newell	Everton to Blackburn	£100,000

YESTERDAY'S LEADING MOVES

PLAYER	CLUBS	FEES
Alan McLaughlin	Southampton to Portsmouth	£400,000
Clive Allen	Chelsea to West Ham	£275,000
Ray Attwells	Everton to Bristol City	£250,000
Matt Dickinson	Lincoln to Blackburn	£250,000
Mike Willow	Leeds to Middlesbrough	£225,000
Kevin Wilson	Chelsea to Notts Co	£225,000
Neil Tolson	Leyton O to Plymouth	£220,000
Devon White	Bristol R to Cambridge U	£100,000
John Taylor	Cambridge to Bristol R	£100,000
Colin Small	Portsmouth to Swindon	£90,000
Adrian Heath	Man City to Stoke City	£90,000
Tony Hynes	Joswick to Wrexham	£80,000</td

WBO title chance earned



HEALTH
Fitness courses that cure chronic ailments

LIFE & TIMES

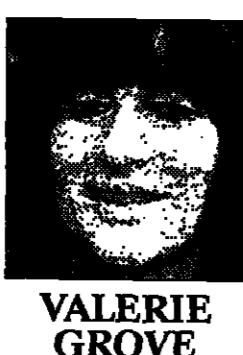
FRIDAY MARCH 27 1992



MOTORING
Going, going: the Arthur Daley image of car auctions

If I should die, think only this of me

The celebration of death by the celebrants of life, such as the novelist Angela Carter, is a carefully considered affair



VALERIE GROVE

The friends of Angela Carter, the novelist who died last month, have received a pretty invitation for this Sunday morning. It is bright pink, opens up like a stage set with curtains, and shows animals, flowers and birds including a parrot with an RSVP in its beak. "Angela Carter," it says. "You are invited to a celebration of her life and works at the Ritz Cinema..."

Some of the guests at the Ritz may also have received invitations to celebrate the life of Sebastian Walker, the publisher of children's books who died last year, at a concert and supper at the Royal College of Music with the Alberni Quartet. The generous "Sebby", who was only 48 when he died, always did give good parties.

These are not memorial services, but the contemporary equivalent, a "celebration of the life of", which is how we now try to relieve death of its sting, the grave of its victory. Friends do not care much for funerals, on the whole, but nobody minds going to a thanksgiving, which roots out uneasy diffidence about death.

Angela Carter died of cancer at the age of 51. There was a small, private funeral for her family. But a traditional memorial service was out of the question. "Any whiff of heaven," says Susannah Clapp, her literary executor, "would have gone down very badly with Angela." Instead, she decided, as death approached, that she wanted her friends to gather in one of her favourite buildings — she suggested the Granada cinema. Footing — to watch her favourite films.

She felt that London is divided, like England, into north and south, rich and poor, and she identified strongly with south London. She loved the kitschy glamour of the Granada: when she was a child it had half of mirrors and a cyclorama. But it is now a bingo hall; so the Ritz at Brixton was picked instead (where they will soon show an Angela Carter season of the films she liked best.) On Sunday there will be readings from her work; Tariq Ali will speak about her politics; and Michael Berkeley, the composer, will play the records she chose for her Desert Island Discs. She was due to record the programme with Sue Lawley, but was too ill to do so, in the last week of her life.

Why do we need these rituals, even the most atheistic among us? Because the commonplace crematorium service is too perfunctory, detached, almost a betrayal of the person — "a quarter of an hour, with a queue of other hearses waiting" as Canon John Oates, of St. Bride's Church, Fleet Street, says. His Wren church is London's fourth most popular venue for memorials after Westminster Abbey, St. Margaret's, and St Paul's, and families however irreligious their habits, come to him in bereavement, because they feel the need to mark the life that is lost, and his church is there for people when they need it. He takes care to find the appropriate songs for the choir to sing, no matter how secular. "Wasn't there anything he used to sing or whistle around the house?" he asked one man's family. Yes, he was told, he was a fanatical West Ham supporter: so the choir sang "I'm Forever Blowing Bubbles". "The right song can be such an echo of the person," he says. "It is a tremendously therapeutic thing."

Fearful of funerals, colleagues and friends feel they can comfortably gather at such a thanksgiving, by which time laughter is permitted, even necessary. There is no clerical objection to laughter in church, and people remember best the addresses that made them laugh. Michael Frayn is a master of this delicate art. Services which only faintly encomia of *Nisi Bonum* are unconvincing. Fenella Fielding recalls that the dancer John Gilpin's memorial seemed to consist of unrelied adulation until Evelyn Laye swept up to the lectern and told an immensely long story at the end of which Gilpin had bought her a face-pack with the wittiest remark: "Anyway, Boo dear, you need it." At which point the congregation felt like applauding.

At Bertrand Readings' memorial they were unabashed and did applaud each piece, as if it were just another show.

There is consolation in favourite hymns and songs (sometimes it

site. But it does no harm to think about what might be appropriate — "To everything there is a season . . ." from Ecclesiastes; De La Mare's "Look thy last on all things lovely, every hour . . ." Amelia Johnson Burr's "Because I have loved life, I shall have no sorrow to die"; Christina Rossetti's "When I am dead" ("Sing no sad songs for me") or "Better by far you should forget and smile/ Than that you should remember and be sad".

As a nation we do not honour our dead ceremonially, with exceptions like the funerals of Churchill and Mountbatten, each meticulously planned by the dead men themselves: in Churchill's case down to the last gun-carriage, and in Mountbatten's with the poignant addition of the televised obituary he prepared of himself in advance.

Dead poets and novelists can pack a cathedral (Graham Greene, Sir John Betjeman) but Auberon Waugh claims that even a middle-brow French writer gets a more

based

on jokes, often rather coarse. He'd be able to hear Larry's voice saying, "Come off it, old cock . . ." so he was given 1 Corinthians 13 instead.

In a more minor key, there was a thanksgiving for Sir John Betjeman, held a month after his huge Westminster Abbey memorial, in Cornwall, where he had died and was buried. The service at St Endellion (whose very name is like a ring of bells) was free of pomp, full of laughter, and followed by tea on the vicarage lawn. In the same church later, John Amis recited "How to get on in society" ("Phone for the fish knives, Norman") and James Morell singing a musical version of Joan Hunter Dunn. He would have liked that.

Elderly people measure out their lives in the memorials of friends, relieved that it is not yet their turn. "Haven't seen you for a

long time." Sir William van Straubenzee said the other day to a Tory MP, who replied: "Well, we haven't had any memorial services to go to." The parties are like Irish wakes, often more lavish than anything in the departed lifetime. The party at the Reform Club after the service for the much-eulogised reporter David Blundy, killed in San Salvador at the age of 44, was so enjoyable that Hunter Davies decided to change his will to leave money for just such a party when he goes.

Carmen Callil, Angela Carter's

publisher, has put a codicil in her will for a grand hooley. Sir Robin Day is thinking of surprising everyone with a pre-recorded tape saying "Good morning! How very kind of you all to come", and inviting mourners to repair to the Garrick for champagne. As a final gesture, the late Jill Bennett left specific instructions: her coffin was not to slide through those doors, which upsets people (instead it remained in place while the guests filed out to "I Left My Heart in San Francisco") and cases of champagne were to wait at her house, which nobody was to leave until the last bottle was finished.

Others do not care for these insouciant approaches to their departure. Paul Johnson has told his wife he does not want any of this celebration nonsense. "I want a straightforward requiem mass, in Latin, with plainchant and the 'Dies Irae', the greatest of all medieval poems. If one is leaving this life and going into the unknown, the Catholic church knows how to conduct the proceedings with dignity and majesty."

"I think the address should be solemn and awesome, because death is a terrible thing. Someone has gone, we know not whither, and that should be the keynote. If people have celebrations in cinemas, that is different, they can make their own rules, but once in a church it is by nature religious, if not in content then in tone." In a way one pities the atheists, because granted their beliefs, death is annihilation. For Christians it is a new beginning, glorious as well as dreadful."

I recall a secular gathering for another writer, Anne Sharpe, called Remembering Anne, held in a sunny room overlooking the Thames. Pieces of her work were read out, her Desert Island Discs were played, and money was collected to build a sun-dial in her name, a cheering memorial. A poem by Edna St Vincent Millay was included because it struck a note of dismay about death, the last line reading "But I do not approve. And I am not resigned." Agnostics need not go gentle into that good night. Even militant agnostics, however, sometimes relax their objections to the spiritual when they hear a beautiful rendering of the Magnificat, Ave Maria or Jesu Piu

from Faure's Requiem sung by a lone choirboy.

But no such compromise would have been acceptable for Angela Carter, who cast a laser-beam eye (in Carmen Callil's words) on the world. For Ms Carter, only pure celebration would do. "Celebrate: honour, observe, hollow, ritualise, exalt, glorify, revere, venerate, acclaim, applaud, cheer, laud, carouse, rejoice, revel..." said her agent Deborah Rogers, consulting her thesaurus. "It sums up our theme."

At least these combinations of *festschrift* and *memento mori* give

people some means of dealing with the unmentionable: and in their private thoughts guests can allow "the eternal note of sadness in".

INSIDE

Arts 2.3

Modern Times 4

Health 5.6

Motoring 7

TV, radio 10

TOMORROW

Where have the flowers gone?



CLIVE BARDA

"Any whiff of heaven, would have gone down very badly": Instead, Angela Carter decided to invite her closest friends to her favourite cinema to watch her favourite films. But the cinema was no more

part of God's creation, and an opportunity to meditate on the mortality of all of us, because the one unalterable fact of life is death." Even the agnostic may be struck by a sense of belonging to a church when the time comes. The late George Grua spoke at a friend's memorial at St Brides. "You may find it odd to hear a rogue like me talking about a rogue like him in a place like this," he said, "but we feel we belong here." A few months later, George was being celebrated there himself, with "Where Have All the Flowers Gone" sung by the choir to reflect his opposition to the Gulf war. Sam White, the *Evening Standard's* Paris correspondent since 1945, who died in 1988, was a Melbourne Jew, but his St Brides' memorial was perfectly appropriate. Apart from an excellent address by Lady Soames, there was a hauntingly slow rendering of "I Love Paris" and at the end everyone sang "Waltzing Matilda" and left feeling rather jolly.

Fearful of funerals, colleagues and friends feel they can comfortably gather at such a thanksgiving, by which time laughter is permitted, even necessary. There is no clerical objection to laughter in church, and people remember best the addresses that made them laugh. Michael Frayn is a master of this delicate art. Services which only faintly encomia of *Nisi Bonum* are unconvincing. Fenella Fielding recalls that the dancer John Gilpin's memorial seemed to consist of unrelied adulation until Evelyn Laye swept up to the lectern and told an immensely long story at the end of which Gilpin had bought her a face-pack with the wittiest remark: "Anyway, Boo dear, you need it." At which point the congregation felt like applauding.

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There is consolation in favourite hymns and songs (sometimes it



In death, as in life: Corinna Thurgood's invitation to the celebration of the life of Angela Carter

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RAPHAEL REDISCOVERED: The painting known as "The Madonna with the Goldfinch" was bought at a garage sale by Ralph Lauren in 1984. It hung in the then Duke of Northumberland's, but fell under scholarly disapproval and was removed to the ranks of an early copy. As such it hung obscure and unregarded at Alnwick Castle until 1989. The rest of the National Gallery looked again and realized it was the long lost original. The present Duke has lent it to the National Gallery where it hangs with two of his father's early Raphaels for comparison in the Sainsbury National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, London WC2 (071-833 3321). Mon-Sat, 10am-8pm, Sun, 2-6pm.

BBC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: The orchestra performs a bold programme which includes the British premiere of Edward Shekley's *Hestia Longina*. There is also a film of Rini Siem's *The Last Days of Pompeii*, and the first performance of the new Violin Concerto by the then Duke of Northumberland, but fell under scholarly disapproval and was removed to the ranks of an early copy. As such it hung obscure and unregarded at Alnwick Castle until 1989. The rest of the National Gallery looked again and realized it was the long lost original. The present Duke has lent it to the National Gallery where it hangs with two of his father's early Raphaels for comparison in the Sainsbury National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, London WC2 (071-833 3321). Mon-Sat, 10am-8pm, Sun, 2-6pm.

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TODAY'S EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainments compiled by Karl Knight

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London Galleries: Rembrandt and an Alexander Calder retrospective, reviewed by Richard Cork

Rembrandt triumphs in all his moods

However zealously the scholars may probe, x-ray and analyse in their tireless attempts to arrive at the "real" Rembrandt, the artist himself evades neat classification. His National Gallery retrospective opens at a time when the exposing of false attributions has become even more controversial. This spare selection of just 51 genuine paintings reflects the new image of the artist, purged of all fatty deposits. But anyone imagining that the lean Rembrandt will be any less complex is in for a surprise.

If anything, the paintings assembled on the warm brown walls of the Sainsbury Wing seem even more mysterious and awesome than they did on their previous stage of the tour in Amsterdam. Did any other artist encompass a greater range, or develop so far from ostentatious youth to profound old age? Surely not, and the gulf in handling between his earliest and final paintings could hardly be more immense. For the youthful Rembrandt worked on a surprisingly small scale, and lavished on every millimetre a miniaturist infatuation with detail. This is utterly removed from the summarising roughness of his last years.

Already, however, certain lifelong preoccupations give these little Leiden pictures their latent power. In a dramatically candlelit painting of a *Rich Man*, Rembrandt heaps the outer areas with an extravagant abundance of led-

gers and tally-sheets. At the age of 21, Rembrandt allows his innate flamboyance to give this proliferating still life a manic exuberance.

On the next wall, by contrast, an equally strong need to explore contemplative stillness becomes apparent. Seated at a writing desk, the white-bearded St Paul pauses from his labours and stares downwards. And one of Rembrandt's finest early achievements, *Jeremiah lamenting the Destruction of Jerusalem*, minimises the spectacle of the burning city in favour of an ageing patriarch slumped in thought.

Not that Rembrandt could suppress his theatricality for long. One of the first canvases he painted after his move to Amsterdam was a towering image of a man in oriental dress. This exotic pretence seems overblown compared with Jeremiah or St Paul. He is a fancy-dress concoction, issuing from the side of Rembrandt's imagination which also led him to paint a self-portrait dressed in a soldier's gleaming gorget. This is a man arrayed for combat, determined to conquer Dutch art as swiftly as possible.

He succeeded, and during the 1630s his art flowered with astonishing versatility. He was capable of the jostling turbulence of *Ecc Homo*, a small monochrome oil on paper where the handling varies from encrusted elaboration to a sketch-like fluidity worthy of Daumier. But he was just as ready to transform

A ll the same, Rembrandt's blatant emphasis on role-playing is tantamount to an admission that *The Standard-Bearer* is only a pose. In another mood, he was able to invest a portrait of an 83-year-old woman with an extraordinary amount of insight. Unflattering enough to define the sitter's bulbous nose, as well as every sag and wrinkle in her brittle skin, this rosycheeked head is also invested with immense compassion.

But nothing can prepare us for the startling intimacy of *A Young Woman in Bed*. The 39-year-old Rembrandt was prepared to cast decorum aside and close on a semi-naked figure rising from plumped-up pillows. In her



Startling intimacy. *A Young Woman in Bed*, circa 1645, by Rembrandt, from the National Gallery of Scotland

eagerness to greet an unseen husband or lover, she sweeps back the curtain with an impulsive gesture.

The greatest of his female nudes, however, comes almost a decade later in the Louvre's *Bathsheba with King David's letter*. All the gaudiness and gesticulation have dropped away. Here is a woman caught between obeying her king and remaining faithful to her hus-

band. David's seductive message hangs from her fingers, and she gazes down even more pensively than St Paul a quarter of a century before. The introspection is countered by Rembrandt's robust handling of her body. *Bathsheba* is perhaps the most complex and convincing depiction of a naked woman in European art.

The finest of the late works

here is the group portrait of "Staalmeesters" of the Amsterdam Drapers' Guild. No theatricality disrupts the sober row of black-suited figures, but Rembrandt charges them with a sense of hushed expectancy. Installed in the paneling on the right is an image of burning beacons, and one historian has related it to a 17th-century motto declaring: "Let thy light shine forth amongst men." The same words could be applied to the elderly Rembrandt himself, whose own understanding illuminates even the most shadowy and unknowable regions of mortal existence.

• Rembrandt painter and etching at the National Gallery 071-389 1740 until May 24; Rembrandt drawings are also at the British Museum 071-636 1555 until August 4.

GALLERIES: CRITIC'S CHOICE

• **JOCK McFADYEN:** McFadyen's latest show contains a number of designs for Kenneth MacMillan's new ballet, *The Judas Tree*, at Covent Garden. Most of the other paintings feature the themes of casual, urban sex and violence, with a few of his terrible killer dogs thrown in. But they are painted with the utmost finesse and, charmingly, there is something oddly innocent about the most directly sexual.

William Jackson Gallery, 28 Cork Street, W1 (071-287 2121). Mon-Fri 10am-6pm, Sat 10am-1pm, until April 11. There is also a show of paintings, works on paper and prints from 1980-86 at Bloodline Art, Unit 10 Canalside Studios, 2-4 Orsman Road, N1 (071-739 4383) Wed-Sun 11am-6pm, until April 12.

• **LIKE NOTHING ELSE IN TENNESSEE:** Many sculptors and painters incorporate or refer to architecture in their work. The use of architectural motifs on the making of architecture in miniature gives rise to lively as well as deadly art. This show leaves out now established figures such as the Poiriers, Charles Simmonds and Ben Johnson, and instead introduces some younger artists virtually unknown in Britain, alongside our own Julian Opie and Dan Graham.

Serpentine Gallery, Kensington Gardens, London W2 (071-402 6075). Daily, 10am-6pm, until April 26.

• **DANCE OF DEATH:** The first world war led many artists to return to and develop the traditional iconography of the Dance of Death. This selection from the Imperial War Museum's collection includes the Italian symbolist Alberto Marini, German fantasist Thomas Theodor Heine and Dutch cartoonist Louis Raemaekers, and is part of the South Bank's "Towards the Millennium" festival.

Festival Hall, South Bank, SE1 (071-928 3002). Daily, 10am-10pm, until April 12.

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

Encore for a genial revolutionary

Like a zestful ring-master at a circus, Alexander Calder could not resist making his sculpture perform nimble and crowd-delighting feats. The mobiles he devised for the purpose have since become so familiar that his audacity is often taken for granted. But during the inter-war years Calder was a genial revolutionary, and the Royal Academy's succinct survey provides an ideal introduction to his achievement.

Up in the airy, light-filled Sackler Galleries, a row of academic statues line the foyer. They neatly summarise the tradition against which Calder rebelled. Solid, sombre and earthbound, they stand on their plinths without a hint of humour. But Calder, whose ancestors had been successful academic sculptors in Pennsylvania, was a subversive young

man. Trained initially as a mechanical engineer, he looked at tradition with an outsider's impatience.

The conventional solidity of sculpture is questioned even in his earliest carvings, where two cats lying back-to-back are robbed of their bulk. From there, Calder's progress from wood to wire, and from plinth to wall or ceiling, seems logical enough.

Sculptural substance vanishes, and in its place a weightless intoxication with line is allowed to flourish. The body of a horse is reduced to pure contours leaping through space, while the tensile form of an upside-down acrobat runs down into words wittily proclaiming that she is a "wire sculpture by Calder".

By this time, the paradoxically bulky American had captivated the Parisian avant-garde. They loved his improvised performances of an entire circus troupe, while he learned from their work as well. Miró proved a major influence, and some of Calder's mobiles look like airborne versions of the Spaniard's surrealist paintings. But he learned just as

much from Mondrian, asounding the austere Dutchman with the sacrilegious suggestion that his paintings would work better if they were set in motion.

The results of Calder's own love affair with movement enliven the white, elegant chambers of the Sackler Galleries. Whether sprouting like brilliantly coloured fruit from an extended arm, or floating from the ceiling in poised clusters that respond to the slightest air, these exhilarating works convey the *joie de vivre* which is Calder's liberating legacy to modern sculpture.

RICHARD CORK

• Alexander Calder continues at the Royal Academy of Arts, Piccadilly, London W1 (071-439 7438), daily until June 7.

• The Crane Gallery has an exhibition of the work of Alexander Calder complementing the Royal Academy retrospective. The exhibition, his first in a commercial gallery in London for a generation, features early oil paintings, works on paper and tapestries, mobiles and stabiles. Crane Gallery, 171a Sloane Street (first floor), London SW1 (071-235 2464). Mon-Fri 10am-6pm, Sat 10am-4pm. Until May 1.



The Horse, a 1976 lithograph by Alexander Calder

Few episodes in British history have entered the national consciousness as swiftly or as decisively as the Falklands War. The total defeat of the Argentine invasion of 1982 helped define the political culture of the years which followed and was arguably the wave upon which Thatcherism rode until its fall on the eve of the Gulf conflict.

There was little room in the midst of all the passion and the flag waving for the nuance of personal reflection, let alone the contagion of outright dissent. Ten years on, BBC 2 has tried to plug the gap with War Stories, a series of personal accounts exploring the war through the eyes of five very different individuals.

Last night's third instalment, directed by Peter Bate, told the tale of Virginia Gamba-Stonehouse, an Argentine military strategist who returned to her homeland in 1982 after many years abroad, to find herself embroiled in the conflict.

"It's our Atlantic," cried Argentinians in the street. "One day we'll be a super-power too." An extraordinary television advent of the time reminded an archetypal teacher, a mechanic and a housewife all doing their bit for the motherland that "the country in action is the engine of victory"; not so, it would seem. I was reminded of V.S. Naipaul's remark that Argentina offered its settlers the promise of ease but few ideals. Nationalism was clearly the lowest common denominator.

The Argentine military leadership was rather left off the hook amidst all the talk of cultural necessity and national yearning. It is true that war helps shape nationhood; but it is also true that war lords use conquest to divert attention from their domestic failures.

The Falklands invasion was, after all, the reckless and desperate act of a regime which had already violated every human right at home.

Still, the sympathetic presence of Gamba-Stonehouse — part scholar, part prodigal daughter — lent a strange poignancy to scenes shot in the Buenos Aires war school, where she taught during the conflict and to her interviews with Galtieri's former henchmen. However partial the views expressed in the film, one could not question their authenticity. These were subtle emotional insights into the complex response of an individual to overwhelming circumstances.

MATTHEW D'ANCONA

TELEVISION REVIEW

Unity at high cost

recalled, taking the viewer on a tour of Argentine nationalism, though never truly disclosing the emotions which the mirror image inspired in her.

The battle for the islands, she said, forged "a fragile but discernible unity" amongst Argentinians hungry for only World Cup and war confer on nations. Nicancor Costa Mendez, former minister of foreign affairs, told her of the visits of trade union leaders hostile to the military regime but supportive of the war.

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RECORDS: JAZZ

Mature and mellow

DIZZY GILLESPIE should have been appearing at the Festival Hall earlier this month, celebrating his 75th birthday with his globe-trotting big band. Another bout of illness has put paid to those plans. Some consolation is to be found in the selection of tunes re-cast by Bebop &

Beyond, a sleek American group led by the reeds player Mel Martin. Despite the band's name, the arrangements on *Bebop & Beyond Plays Dizzy Gillespie* (Enja Blue Moon R2-79170) are closer in spirit to Gillespie's more spacious mid-period work than the rough and tumble of the early bebop recordings. Aware that the world is not crying out for yet another blast of "Night in Tunisia", Martin has picked out several lesser-known compositions alongside the stirring Afro-Cuban fanfare, "Manteca".

Gillespie makes a guest appearance on six of the eight tracks. No longer able to hurtle into the stratosphere at will, he allows fellow-trumpeter Warren Gales to take most of the honours. It has to be said that Gillespie lags a long way behind on occasion — only to be expected from a man his age. There is a mechanical air to some of his soloing, and his tone is often tentative. Still, his native cunning and sense of timing carries him through, and if the signature is blurred and shaky at times, it is still immediately recognisable. He certainly makes amends at a slower tempo with "I Waited For You", a genuinely affecting ballad which also features his gravelly voice.

CLIVE DAVIS

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CLIVE DAVIS

Canvassing London's tent dwellers

How do the homeless view an election in which they seem to have been ignored? Alice Thomson found out

Greville had just settled himself down for the night on three bindlers, a fake fur coat and a piece of tarpaulin. The theatre-goers, diners and office workers who were hurrying across Lincoln's Inn Fields, near the Strand in central London, were careful not to tread on him. But Greville was not asking them for anything, he was discussing politics.

"It's my own fault, I came from Leeds without enough money and I just couldn't get a job before it ran out," the 18-year-old says. "But none of the politicians are doing enough for our generation. My friends left school at 15 and half of us couldn't even read properly. There are no jobs for us and no accommodation. We're stuck, I might have voted Labour because they are more likely to put the dole up. But I couldn't vote for Kinnock because his policies even more often than the others."

Greville doesn't really care about the dilemma because he can't vote anyway, neither can any of his neighbours. The 150 men and women who bed down each night in Lincoln's Inn Fields have lost the right to vote. They form part of the estimated 2,500 people estimated by charities to live on the streets of London.

Once the Fields was an attractive oasis in the heart of legal London, with regimental bands in the summer and an open-air cafe. Now the gardens are largely untended and occupied by about 40 tents and rough shelters which form a shanty town for the homeless. There are no lavatories and there is no running water.

They come to the Fields because it is less vulnerable to casual violence, being tucked behind the inns of court, it has a well-developed system of food handouts and it is within easy access of shopping streets and a constant stream of pedestrians with the potential for begging.

The word "homeless" can conjure up images of an unshaven mass drunk, sometimes mad and often begging. But a walk round the Fields produced little evidence to justify this notion. Most of the people there are very ordinary individuals who once had jobs, families and hopes. There are all types of people – unemployed,

ployed young, old naval veterans. A few have psychiatric problems and some are alcoholics but most become trapped in the Fields because of redundancy, unemployment and housing costs. Everyone should have the right to vote. I may be on the street but I haven't lost my mind. I am outside government figures, I am a nobody," he says.

Andy, aged 33, used to be a bank clerk but lost his wife and his job because of his alcoholism. He found work as a cleaner, but couldn't hold down the job and moved into the park a couple of weeks ago when he could no longer afford the bed and breakfast.

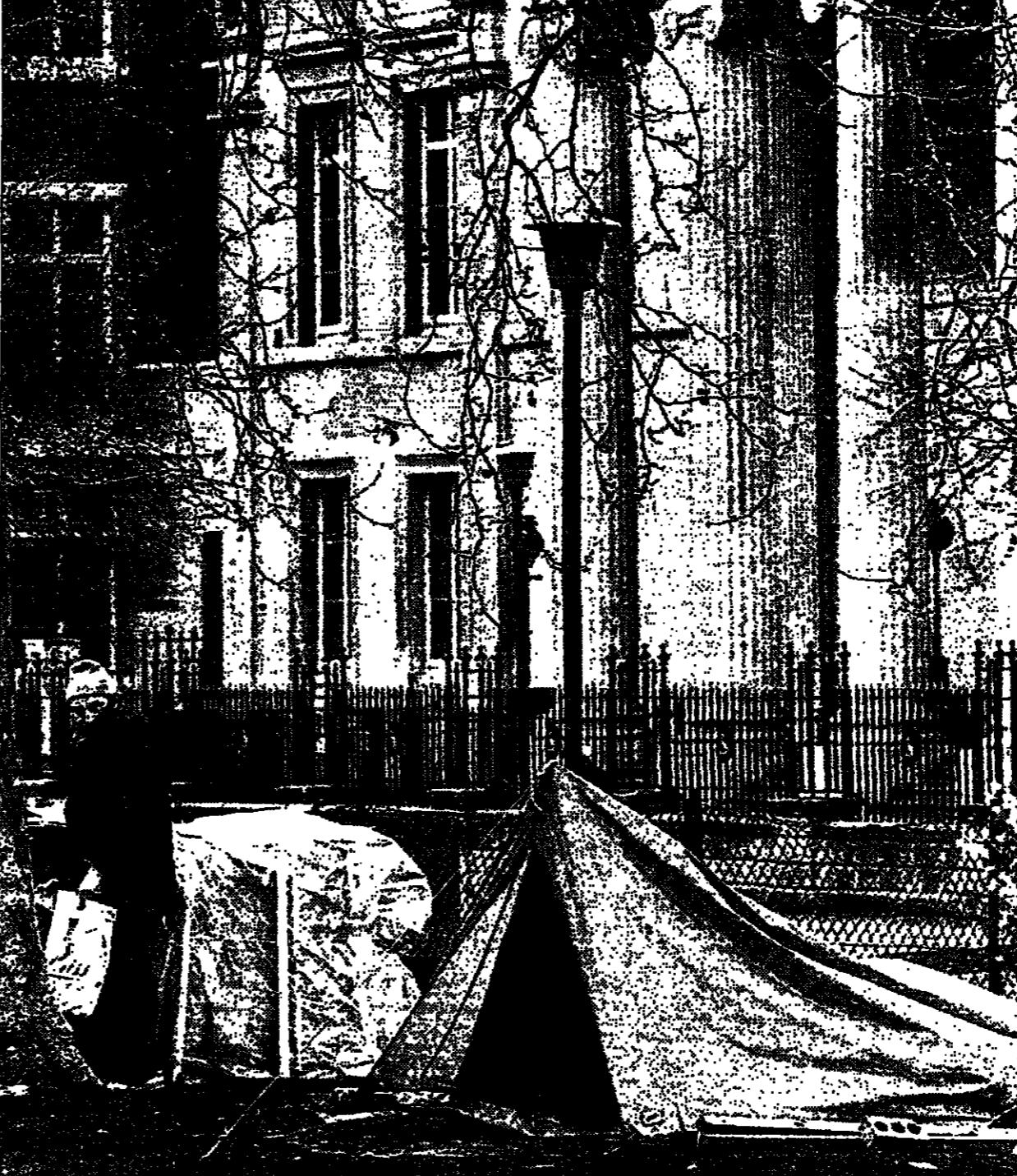
"I think this park should be a place for children to play not for the likes of us. It's terrible seeing a beautiful place like this being soiled but we have nowhere to go. I would vote for any government that could get me out of here and sort out my problem but none of them offer us anything concrete," he says.

Inside the Roundhouse, a summerhouse in the centre of the Fields, Graham, who is wearing a gold crown from McDonald's and clutching a can of beer, is arguing with his friends about the monarchy.

"The monarchy is going down the drain, Fergie's finally sunk them," he says. "Maybe I ought to apply for the job of king?" Kate asks him whether he wants to find somewhere to live. "Of course, but I'm not going into one of those hostels. They are full of junkies and old blokes spitting. I need my space. I want my own room I can decorate myself," he says.

What would Graham really like? "I would like to be watching the cricket in Australia rather than listening to it on a crummy radio in a freezing bandstand," he says. "But at least it means the politicians will stop gassing. This election has been really uninspired." Graham has heard Ken Livingstone talking about the sale of the County Hall. "Why are they giving the building to the Japanese? They should make it into a proper hostel for us. Then they wouldn't have to be embarrassed about tourists tripping up on us in the streets. It would be a real vote winner and they could prove they care."

Dorothy is cocooned in blankets and a woolly hat. "We should force all the ministers to stay in power. That way they would be more responsible and they would be taken more seriously," she says. The Hare Krishna have arrived for the first sun run of the night and men and women start appearing from the bushes. "If I could vote on behalf of everyone lying in doorways I would give my vote to the



No concrete promises: some of London's homeless after a freezing night in their encampment at Lincoln's Inn Fields

people who come here every night and actually help us," says Nick, who looks like an elderly rock star, in tight trousers and platform heels. He gives Kate a squeeze.

"I have this fantasy where the prime minister asks me what I would do for the homeless," Nick continues. "I would ask to go to tea and

show him how well I behaved. Then I would very politely ask what he is going to do for the people who have nothing. If he can't reply I will ask him what he is doing for the British Gas men who seem to be earning millions every year? He is offering them free education, free health care and help with their mortgages.

Then I would ask: "Who needs more help, the homeless or people who already have a job? I saw a 15-year-old girl begging on the Strand last week. I took her to a hostel and gave her some change. We all help each other here in the Fields. That is basic human kindness but someone needs to help us."

Graces and favours
... or what the butler said

Down the road at the primary school, they fold their hands before dinner and intone "Lord bless the food we eat and help us to enjoy it with good manners". They have said this throughout living memory, and although its banality and bathos are clear to all they somehow can't change it. In countless other schools the awkward inversion beginning "For what we are about to receive..." prefaces a general scraping of chairs, and in public schools the head boy's job is to snarl charmlessly "Benedictus benedic". Which translates as "Let the blessed one bless" or, more loosely, "Do your job, God".

Seeing Mr Hudson the butler again on the Channel 4 repeat of *Upstairs Downstairs* reminded me of the singularly chilling nature of some graces before meals. Over the congealing muton he requested God to "Grant us conciliation to that rank in which in His infinite mercy He has seen fit to place us": every word a brick in the wall. This particular blessing — like the good manners one — didn't quite make it into Carolyn Martin's second *Book of Graces*, but other prime examples do.

The occupational graces favoured by servicemen and livery companies have a certain panache: nice that the Wachandlers Company mention "The Wax and the Honey", and the Woolmen regard themselves as "grazing". One can see oneself dining conformably with the Parachute Regiment, who say "Good food, Good friends, Safe Landings, Thank God" (the Navy just tend to bark "Thank God!" and sit down hard)

Most graces seem to bring out the very worst in their authors

And it is only proper pride which makes the Catering Corps point out in their thanksgiving "The skill of those who prepare and serve"; and predictable self-congratulation which makes The Vegetarian Grace so keen to mention their own "kindness and mercy towards The creatures". And there is a real frisson in the Millers' Grace: "Back of the bread is the flour. Back of the flour is the mill. And back of the mill is the wind and the rain. And the Father's will."

But it must be sadly said that most graces seem to bring out the very worst in their authors. Terrible clergymen archaicisms and jargon about "sufficiency" and "bounties" deface even modern graces, with honourable exceptions like the Right Rev Hugh Montefiore's "Thank you God for our lovely food". But even that inclines towards the opposite weakness, that of folksiness. I will not trouble you with the W.I. Christmas Grace (cheerful crimson berry ... children's faces shining merrily ... you get the picture) but must point the finger at the Very Rev Lancelot Fleming, former Dean of Windsor, with "O Lord, grant that we may not be like porridge, stiff, stodgy and hard to stir; but like cornflakes: crisp, fresh and ready to serve". Just a black coffee for me, please.

And yet which family does not sometimes wish it had the grace habit? It gives dignity to a meal, a moment of discipline and silence amid the mindlessly snacking self-indulgence of our times. Victoria Gillick, Catholic mother of ten children, never neglects grace. "Even when Gordon and I just sit down to a sandwich, it lifts food one plane higher and gives it a moral dimension." At family gatherings they generally say the standard Catholic grace, beginning "Bless us O Lord, and these Thy gifts...", moderating it for visiting atheist children with "Rub a dub dub, thanks for the grub", a Scottish version imported by Gordon Gillick. Perhaps they should try another Scottish one, "Doom head, up paws, thank God we've jaws."

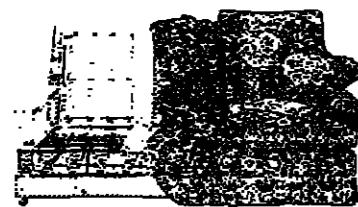
By the way, it turns out to be a foul canard that some City banquets begin with the magnificently insensitive words "Lord bless us who feast whilst others starve". It must be a mishearing of the Edwardian Bishop Core: "Lord, forgive us that we feast while others starve". Much better.

LIBBY PURVES
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WEYBRIDGE

Exercise: take as directed

Ann Kent reports on patients' response to a surgery where doctors prescribe a walk across the road, to the leisure centre

Today, and every other day, thousands of people will make their GPs' hearts sink. The doctor's dismay may be triggered during the morning or afternoon surgery, when a certain name appears on the list of patients. Or it may be in the middle of the night, when the phone rings, and an all too familiar voice utters an all too familiar complaint.

"Heart-sink" patients are those individuals whose problems are genuine, but for whom no effective treatment can be found. Now a group of family doctors in the Sussex town of Haitham has discovered a simple and effective way of helping them.

Anne Wheeler, a 54-year-old grandmother, is a fairly typical heart-sink. The drugs she took to control the arthritis in her hands were not working, the medication she needed to control her thyroid condition made her depressed, and the anti-depressants she was taking made her cry. When she visited Dr Hanraty last January, the GP listened, sympathised and then handed Mrs Wheeler a slip of paper. It was a prescription for ten hour-long sessions at her local leisure centre, The Lagoon.

Although it was opposite the GP's surgery, Mrs Wheeler had never ventured into The Lagoon. Like most of Dr Hanraty's patients she regarded it as a special place for the young, the healthy and the fit.

Her first visit to The Lagoon consisted of an interview, and her second comprised a fitness test, after which a programme was devised for her. Two months later, she talks proudly of the day she did 2,309 metres on the rowing machine in ten minutes, giving her fit 30-year-old son, who tried the same thing, a run for his money.

'Compared with a prescription, workouts are cheap'

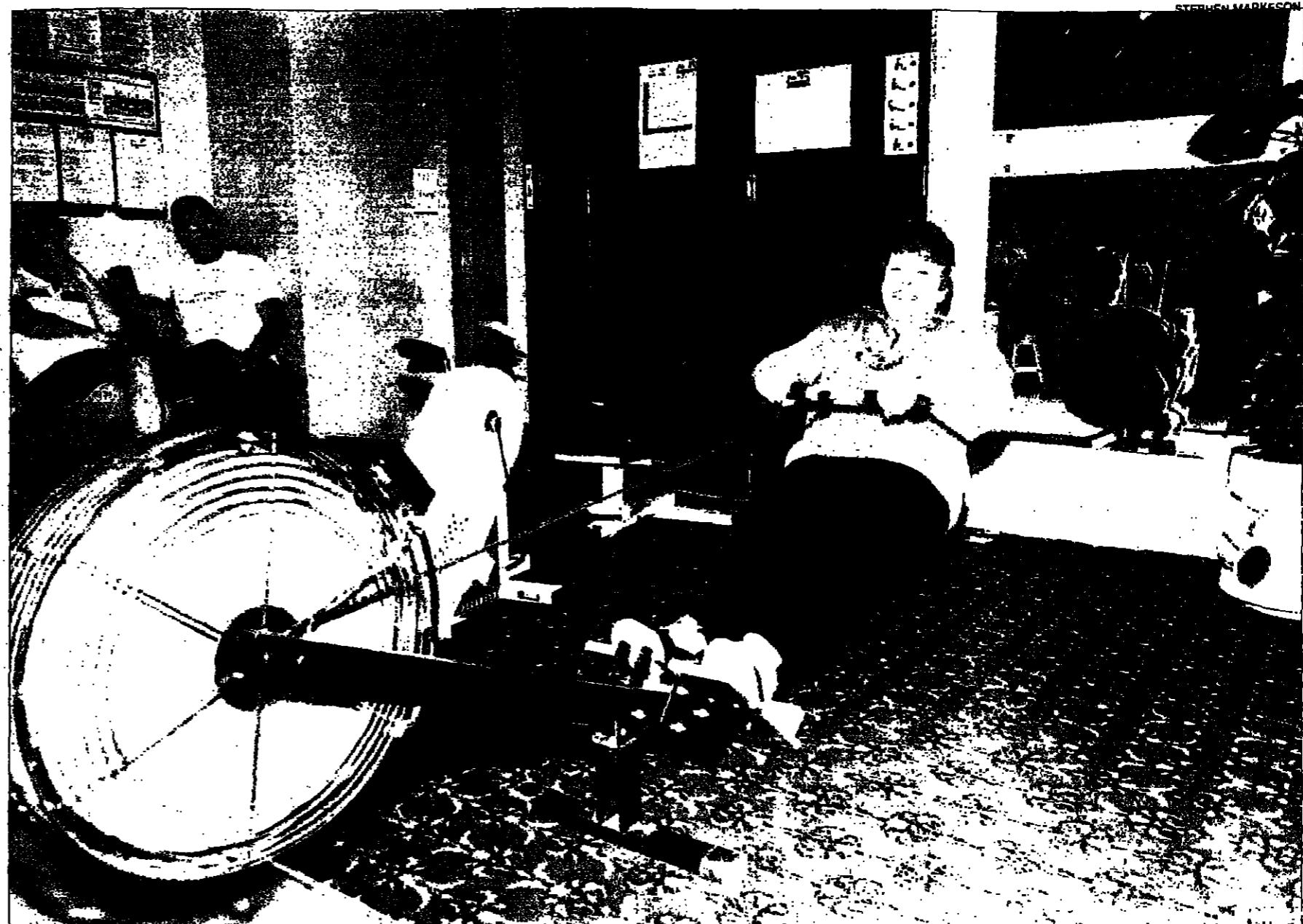
In theory, these prescriptions should have been totally ineffective. Family doctors regularly sigh over their patients' attitudes to their own health. In the same way as they would take their broken-down car to a garage, they take their ailing bodies to a doctor, and expect him to provide a cure.

"Patients do not expect to be told to pick up their beds and walk," Dr Hanraty says, "yet I have been telling them they must do something to help themselves — and, to my surprise, they have been."

Dr Hanraty and some of his colleagues have been referring to the leisure centre patients with cancer, asthma, obesity, arthritis, diabetes, lungs, hypertension, partial paralysis and depression.

Trying to help overweight female patients is one of the most frustrating tasks for a GP, because

Dr Hanraty admits he was initially pessimistic about the outcome when the Oasis project (named after the Lagoon's Oasis



"When the physio gave me my fitness programme, I thought, 'This will kill me': Anne Barnes, overweight and diabetic, rowing at The Lagoon fitness centre

results are so hard to achieve. Anne Barnes, who was four stone overweight, said she was "fed up with absolutely everything" when she went to see Dr Hanraty.

"The food I needed to help control my diabetes seemed to make me put on weight rather than lose it, and I was very depressed about the way I was looking. I had no energy, either.

Dr Hanraty suggested I did some exercise to speed up my metabolism. But when the physio at The Lagoon gave me my fitness programme, last January, I thought, 'This will kill me.'

In fact, Mrs Barnes, aged 45, found she was able to build up her fitness and lose a stone of weight simply through exercising. "Although I've still got a long way to go with my weight, my blood sugar levels have dropped so it is easier to control my diabetes."

Dr Hanraty admits he was initially pessimistic about the outcome when the Oasis project (named after the Lagoon's Oasis

gym where most of the workouts take place) gradually took off last summer. He was not too worried about the fact that the NHS was not subsidising the scheme, which meant that patients would have to pay for their fitness sessions. The Lagoon, run by the local authority, was offering its facilities at a special low rate of £1 for a session in the cardiovascular gym and 50p for a swim.

"Many of my patients spend £20 to £30 a week on cigarettes, and compared with the price of a prescription — £3.40 [this will rise to £3.75 on April 1] — the workouts are cheap," Dr Hanraty says.

But he thought that the patients in greatest need — those who exercised the least — would be unlikely to turn up. "Patients listen to the doctor, and then do what they want to do."

He quotes research showing that for every ten patients given a prescribed medicine, only four take it according to the instructions. Other studies have revealed

that only 50 per cent of people who begin a fitness programme are still exercising six months later.

Mike Osbourne, the manager of The Lagoon, said it had long worried him that the people in the greatest need of building up their fitness were the ones least likely to visit leisure centres. Mr Osbourne also sees the venture as a marketing exercise, a way of getting feet on treadmills during the day, when the facilities are under-used.

Many of the 144 people on the Oasis programme have shown that Mr Osbourne's confidence was justified, by not only signing on as members of the leisure centre, but bringing their families with them.

Undertaking an organised fitness programme while coping with a major health problem is a daunting prospect for many people. Mrs Wheeler needed to grip the handles of the exercise bike and the rowing machine at a

time when her arthritis meant she could not peel potatoes or knit.

"But I told myself I would just do one minute, and then another minute — and then you realise you have achieved something," she says. "My hands don't ache nearly so much now and I have cut down on my arthritis drugs."

Although the advantages of exercise in the avoidance of hypertension, heart disease and stroke are well-established, the medical profession has generally assumed that only the most highly motivated of individuals will undertake fitness training.

Mrs Wheeler, Mrs Barnes and patients on the Oasis scheme. This week others, some of them considerably older, spoke with almost evangelical enthusiasm about the effects of their fitness training. Until recently, though, most of them had never considered exercise as a way of helping their condition, or fitness centres as a place where they might fit in.

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Striking a vocal cord

A GENERAL Election campaign is to a politician's vocal cords what a marathon is to a runner's legs: the ultimate test of training and fitness. This year the main contestants are doing well, despite the tensions engendered by the close contest. These might have been expected to cause an abnormal tightening of the vocal cords and alter the breathing by creating an unnatural tension in the neck, chest and abdomen.

According to Mr Malcolm Keen, ear, nose and throat surgeon at the Harley Street Voice Clinic, John Major has a naturally good quality voice. Although the tone may, to some ears, lack a musical quality, and others might wish for more variation in pitch and intensity, his speech is well controlled and his vocal cords not over-stressed. With training the prime minister's voice could become more melodious, says Mr Keen, but as a voice specialist his immediate concern would not be about the prime ministerial timber but its staying power. In any case, as it is, says Mr Keen, "the prime minister's voice reflects his classlessness".

He is impressed by the improvement in Neil Kinnock's voice since the last



MEDICAL BRIEFING
Dr Thomas Stuttaford

election. It appears that with greater experience, and possibly training, Mr Kinnock has learnt to control his delivery; he is less liable to rant, which is when his voice "cracks around the edges", showing there is a limit to the amount of punishment his vocal cords can take. Experts admire the way in which Mr Kinnock's voice has subtly altered over the years, so that there is still enough Welshness in it to inspire a chapel congregation or political rally, but it is not so local as to irritate those from other parts of the country. Paddy Ashdown's voice is perceived as stronger than the other two, perhaps because it has been trained on the parade ground. The modern voice clinic has sophisti-

cated teaching aids. Opera and pop singers, actors, captains of industry and television personalities all use the bio-feedback provided by video-stroboscopy, whereby a camera visualising the patient's throat projects an image of the larynx on to a television screen, enabling them to view the behaviour of their laryngeal cords as they talk. Another system is the laryngography, in which two pads are applied to the outside of the patient's larynx; this transmits a record of the sound waves produced by their voice so that the patient and speech therapist can analyse the speech.

However, in the clinic's experience, politicians don't like to admit that they may need help, for fear of weakening their position both with colleagues or the electorate. The clinic's immediate advice to politicians is to avoid alcohol, to take plenty of fluids particularly when travelling in air-conditioned planes or buses, to avoid smoke-filled rooms and, if at all possible, constant talking. Their long-term advice is that, like other people who have to speak to earn their living, politicians should have voice production lessons.

Old and underfed

IN DICKENS'S era unwanted children had short commons in the orphanage; now it is the turn of the institutionalised elderly.

A recent conference on nutrition and ageing addressed the problem of gross weight loss in elderly hospital-bound patients. According to one speaker, this was usually not the result of malabsorption or a change in metabolism, but of a system whereby all patients were fed the same amount of food regardless of their individual needs.

There were varying responses. One speaker warned that, although it was important to increase fibre intake, processed sources of bran could prevent the absorption of essential minerals. The fibre should be naturally occurring as in brown bread, vegetables and fruit.

Another pointed to the possibly beneficial influence of a high intake of anti-oxidant vitamins on the development of Alzheimer's disease.

Finally, a plea was made for more exercise so that the jaded appetites could be stimulated, encouraging the consumption of more essential vitamins and minerals.

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Auctions with a shiny face

The brighter side
of recession is
the car auction.
Kevin Eason
observes a trend

The electronic counter at ADT Auctions clicked round like an athlete's stopwatch. During recession it seems inconceivable that 116 cars could be sold in 90 minutes. While new-car dealers groan, the auction world stays almost depression-proof.

ADT, Britain's biggest auction group with 25 sites handling more than 800,000 vehicles worth £1.5 billion a year, is one of the trade's most sensitive barometers.

Second-hand cars sell now by almost three to one, and 65 per cent of used-car buyers purchase a second-hand model as their main transport. It is a £1.7 billion industry, yet it constantly attracts the wrong kind of attention. This market is labelled as the world of Arthur Daleys, where buyers worry that their second biggest purchase in life could be a financial disaster.

Auctions, more than most, have the reputation of offering cheap cars — inviting you to gamble that the shiny model you drive away is not, in trade parlance, a "lemon". Only about 5 per cent of used cars



Bargain-hunters: today's auction may offer them better quality and service, and guarantees too

so through auctions, probably reflecting public suspicion.

At ADT's main Blackbushe site in Hampshire, buyers are two types: the sharp-suited with short, severe haircuts and mobile telephones, and the leather-jacketed-and-jeans brigade. A trade auction is not the place for the wide-eyed or faint-hearted. Prices are fixed clearly and quickly, giving a good indication of which cars are holding values.

Auctions also offer speed. Fleet owners or dealers wanting to sell several cars at a time might struggle in today's depressed climate to find

buyers on forecourts. At auction, the cars go in one batch through one wholesaler to buyers at a realistic price, often to stock a second-hand showroom.

ADT, formerly British Car Auctions, also provides public sales and specialist days, for classic cars, for example, where a private buyer can get his dream car at a knockdown price because the "middle man" dealer's profit margin is avoided. However, there is always a niggling worry that the cheap car is also one that will cause endless trouble.

ADT is trying to end all that with the professionalism of the new-car

showroom. Cars are separated according to likely price and condition and can be valeted and repaired to look their best.

The buyer gets a full history with the car plus an indemnity against its being stolen, subject to an outstanding hire purchase agreement, or having its odometer illegally turned back.

Tom Gibson, ADT Auctions' chairman, says: "We have to take the responsibility for the cars we sell. It is time for the auction business to be regarded as well as a dealership and for buyers and sellers of a car to have confidence."

THERE has rarely been a better time to buy a used car. ADT says prices have hardened about 2 per cent since 1990, although there are still bargains to be had.

High-performance cars are being "dumped" at auctions, according to BRS Car Auctions, because owners cannot afford high insurance premiums.

Expect cars with GTI, GTE and SRI badges to be about 20 per cent cheaper than normal.

Try to buy a late model car and look for a well kept interior and a good paint finish.

Use this checklist to help:

- Check paint for ripples or bad matching, possibly indicating accident damage. Check underneath for rust or signs of neglect, which may mean lack of proper servicing.
- Check the interior for wear, particularly the rubber on the clutch and throttle pedals. Heavy wear there but low mileage may mean the car has been clocked.
- Look closely at the odometer. Uneven numbers or other oddities may mean it has been turned back.
- If there are no test certificate, ownership or service documents, forget it.
- Take a long test drive if you are allowed. You may not be able to do so. Check for rattles and look for smoke when the car is revved. Make sure the car stops in a straight line and the steering does not pull.

ROADWISE

Speed warning

THE European Commission is considering the possibility of tighter speed controls on cars, according to Karel Van Miert, the transport commissioner. Lorries and coaches are already subject to laws introducing engine speed governors progressively by 1998. Mr Van Miert says no proposals have been made but a new safety code will "criticise or comment on" the idea of extending the controls to private cars.

Mini maxi-cargo

THE Port of Southampton was handling its biggest single shipment of Minis to Japan this week. More than 1,600 were being loaded onto one ship. More than 6,000 of Rover's baby cars bound for Japan have been loaded at Southampton recently, and British-manufactured cars account for two-thirds of the vehicles going through the port.

Safe Citroëns

CITROËN claims it is making two of the safest cars in their class. Although police reports for the government's Central Statistical Office showed that 8 per cent of accidents in small cars result in death, the figure for Citroën's AX was 6 per cent. In the medium segment the overall deaths per accident figure was 8 per cent but the BX mid-range model showed a return of 5 per cent.

More peace

VAUXHALL is extending its "peace of mind" motoring package to used cars through its Network Q dealers. The cost is £65.50, regardless of make or model, and cover can be extended for three years using RAC recovery services in Britain, and on the European Continent. Assistance includes emergency accommodation, replacement vehicle, alternative transport and legal assistance.

Peugeot pair

IN THE wake of news that GTI cars are falling in popularity because of heavy insurance increases, Peugeot has added two new models to the high-performance range. A special edition 205 comes with the Gentry badge and an automatic gearbox, power steering and a 105bhp 1.9-litre engine. The colours are green or gold and the price is £12,836. The other newcomer is the 309 Goodwood, a sportier 130bhp model with wood and leather interior trim, compact

disc player and Goodwood green exterior paintwork, at £13,456 for the three-door version and £13,783 for the five-door.

Hidden champ

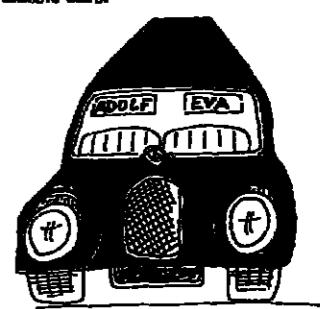
THE rusting hulk of a 1948 sports car, found in a Highland field and full of twigs and leaves, is expected to fetch £12,000 at auction on Monday. The 1948 1.5-litre HRG is being sold by Sotheby's at RAF Hendon, north London. The HRG won the Scottish Top Gear Rally Championship in 1954 and eventually moved to its present owner in 1956 for £350. His widow kept the car in a field for 18 years until Sotheby's discovered it and persuaded her to sell.

Funding the run

MITSUBISHI is to sponsor the Classic Marathon, the race involving 90 models built before 1966 from the Tower of London to Italy, starting on June 6. The tests include special stages in Belgium, Germany and Czechoslovakia before the cars, including Jaguars, MGs, Triumphs, Austin Healeys and Aston Martins, tackle mountain passes through the Dolomites.

Hitter's wheels

THE quest for famous cars to exhibit at the Classic and Sportscar International Show from May 23 to 25 has turned up some interesting finds. Cars belonging to Hitler, Mussolini and Eva Perón are expected at the show at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham. The star will undoubtedly be the 19ft bullet-proof Mercedes-Benz 770K used by Hitler, but there will be light relief from an automobile and displays of other classic cars.



Brake alert

BMW is recalling some of its most exotic motorcycles for a safety check after the company found that road salt could dislodge brake pads. BMW emphasises that there have been no cases in Britain so far. The recall affects the K1, K100RS, 16-valve and R100R machines, and the checks or the repairs will be carried out free.

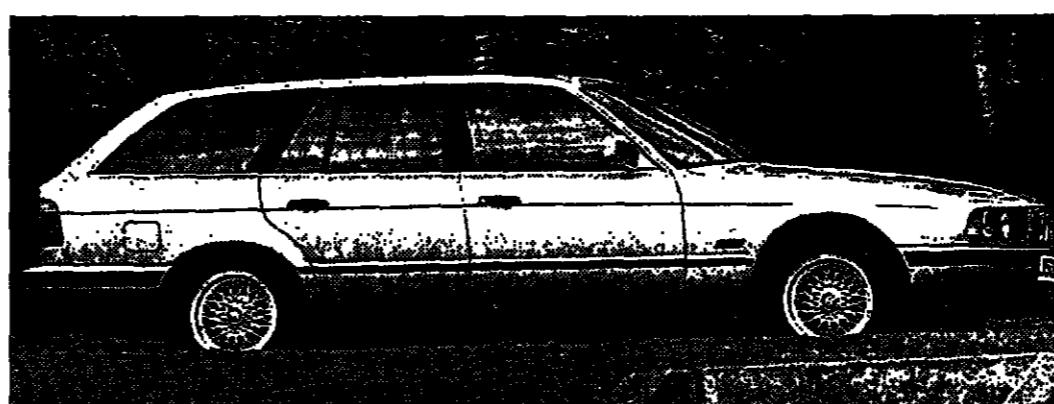
Workhorse that puts on the style

ESTATE cars are workhorses, carrying children and luggage for the family holiday, and packed with everything from rolls of carpet to plumber's tools by tradesmen needing more space.

The market has been dominated by Volvo, Kevin Eason writes. Women on the school run particularly love the heavy feel of a Volvo reassuring them that they are safe as well as comfortable.

BMW thinks an estate can also have style and yesterday launched its new 5-series estates, which carry a Touring badge.

There are only 25,000 estate sales a year, so the market is crowded with Citroën's new XM, the Mercedes, a new Ford Gran-



Estate with a good line: BMW's offering is comfortable, roomy and stylish in a crowded market

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Shock can be reasonable excuse

DPP v Pearman
Before Lord Justice Lloyd and Mr Justice Waterhouse
Judgment March 23
Justices were entitled, without having heard any medical evidence, to find that shock combined with inebriation which rendered a defendant physically incapable of providing a breath specimen for analysis could amount to a reasonable excuse for failing to provide a specimen under section 7(6) of the Road Traffic Act 1988.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in dismissing an appeal by the prosecution against a decision of mid-Herfordshire Justices to acquit Susan Elizabeth Pearman of failing to provide a breath specimen without reasonable excuse.

Mr Tudor Owen for the

Discovery of new evidence

In re Fletcher
On an application under section 13 of the Coroners Act 1988 to quash an inquest and for an order to hold a fresh inquest on the basis of the discovery of new evidence, such evidence would qualify as new (i) if it was not available at the time of the original inquest, (ii) what would have been admissible had it then been available, (iii) was credible and relevant to an issue of significance in the inquest.

Furthermore, there had to be established that the new evidence might have made a material difference to the verdict recorded at the original inquest.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Belldam and Mr Justice Tudor Evans) so held on March 13 in a reserved judgment when they quashed the verdict in the inquest held on January 12, 1984, by Mr Michael R. E. Swannick Scandaline Coroner, on Percy Lewis Fletcher, a miner, that had died from natural causes.

LORD JUSTICE BELLDAM said that new expert medical evidence showed that the defendant had been contributed to significantly by paramoanoxia rather than the circumstances of the case it qualified as new evidence.

Although there was expense and public inconvenience involved in holding a second inquest, the fact that an applicant was required to obtain the Attorney-General's consent before making such application was undoubtedly a safeguard that inappropriate and unnecessary applications would not be made.

prosecution: Mr Bernard Richmon for the defendant.

LORD JUSTICE LLOYD said that the justices had found that the defendant had provided one specimen of breath but when it came to providing a second specimen she began to lose her composure. She blew into the Intoximeter but was unable to provide a sufficient breath for a second specimen.

She sobbed continuously and felt short of breath and unable to breathe properly. Her condition prevented the supply of further breath specimens.

It was clear the justices had the test in *R v Lenard* [1973] 1 WLR 483 well in mind. It was up to the justices to conclude that she was physically incapable of providing a second specimen, although the fact that she had

succeeded in providing the first specimen meant the case was very close to the borderline.

The second submission for the prosecutor was that the justices should not have reached that conclusion without medical evidence.

His Lordship was unwilling to accept the proposition in those terms.

Lord Justice Glidewell in *Grady v Pollard* [1988] RTR 316, 323 had said: "Such evidence will normally be the evidence of a medical practitioner, but it need not be, and one can envisage situations in which there is other evidence; indeed in some circumstances, the evidence of the defendant himself, would suffice..."

It was true that since Grady the attitude of the court had hardened but his Lordship was not prepared to say that the dictum of

Lord Justice Glidewell was wrong. In the instant case there was evidence, albeit of the defendant herself rather than a doctor, which justified a conclusion of physical inability to provide a second specimen.

That was not to say that justices should be gullible. The fact that a defendant was drunk, under stress or trying his hardest was not sufficient to found a reasonable excuse.

Here the facts went further. The defendant's state of shock was the major factor in the justices' decision. They had been impressed by the quality of her evidence in court. It was not for the Divisional Court to interfere.

Mr Justice Waterhouse agreed.

Solicitors: CPS, St Albans; Powell Spencer & Partners, Kilburn.

Intoxication as a medical reason

Young v DPP
Before Lord Justice Lloyd and Mr Justice Waterhouse
Judgment March 24

Intoxication by alcohol was capable of amounting to a "medical reason" within the meaning of section 7(3)(a) of the Road Traffic Act 1988, for a suspect being unable to provide a specimen of breath for analysis such as would entitle a constable to require him to provide a specimen of blood or urine instead.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held by way of case stated by Paula Anne Young against her conviction by Newton Aycliffe Justices of failing to provide a specimen of blood for analysis contrary to section 7(6) of the Road Traffic Act 1988.

Mr John Gilmarin for the defendant; Mr John Evans for the prosecution.

M.R. WATERHOUSE said that the defendant had found that the defendant had been required to provide

two specimens of breath on an Intoximeter but because of her state of intoxication she was unable to do so and the sergeant had decided to require her to provide a specimen for laboratory analysis. The defendant refused.

The defendant's case was that the request for a sample of blood was unlawful as intoxication was not a "medical reason" for a suspect of breath not to be provided as laid down in section 7(3)(a).

His Lordship did not accept that submission. There was no reason why a state of intoxication should not be such a medical reason. Such a state had well known effects on a person's state of control and reason.

There was no reason why intoxication should not afford a medical reason within section 7(3). Intoxication was a medical condition.

Lord Justice Lloyd agreed.

Solicitors: Potter Butler & Lyons for Basil P. Mellon & Co., Newcastle upon Tyne; CPS, Northumbria and Durham.

Prohibited weapon despite fault

Brown v DPP

The fact that due to some unknown fault a gun was not working did not change its character as a prohibited weapon.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Lloyd and Mr Justice Waterhouse) so held on March 24 in dismissing an ap-

peal by way of case stated by Mark Lawrence Brown against his conviction by the Woolwich Metropolitan Stipendiary Magistrate for possessing without authority a sun gun, designed for the discharge of an electrical charge, contrary to section 5(1)(b) of the Firearms Act 1968.

There was no reason why the emphasis must be not so much on exact distances between the criminals and their guns but rather on the accessibility of those guns, judged in a common sense way in the context of criminals embarking on a joint enterprise to commit an indictable offence.

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BBC 1

- 6.00 Ceefax (779124) 6.15 Faces of Islam (7729027)
 6.30 Breakfast News (5734522)
 9.05 Election Call presented by Jonathan Dimbleby Conservative party politician Michael Howard tackles questions posed by viewers and listeners. To participate ring 071-799 5000.
 Simultaneous broadcast with Radio 4 (1106379)
 10.00 News, regional news and weather (8440069) 10.05 Playdays (s) (8936114) 10.25 The Family News (r) (8443176) 10.35 Gibberish. Celebrity word game (9996343)
 11.00 News, regional news and weather (4878843) 11.05 Health UK. Series in which Jane Asher and Linda Mitchell explore health issues facing women (5333628) 11.30 People Today (9302282)
 12.20 Pebble Mill. Music and chat introduced by Alan Titchmarsh (s) (202311) 12.55 Regional News and weather (50654195)
 1.00 One O'Clock News and weather (84621) 1.30 Neighbours (Ceefax) (s) (9742046)
 1.50 Erebus: The Aftermath (1989). Concluding the two part dramatisation of the events surrounding one of the world's worst plane crashes. Starring Frank Finlay. Directed by Peter Sharp (2611724) 3.25 Lifeline. Dame Vera Lynn makes an appeal on behalf of the Young Persons Concert Foundation (r) (7121688)
 3.35 Tom and Jerry Double Bill Cartoons (9702082) 3.50 Bitzle. Advice on turning household junk into something useful (77584591)
 4.05 Jackanory. The second of two improvised story-telling programmes (s) (5798653) 4.20 The Further Adventures of SuperTed (r) (4382973) 4.30 Hanger 17. The last in the series includes music from Yazz (s) (3620939)
 4.55 Newsround (5685845)



Hoodwinked: Longman, Robinson and Morris (5.05pm)

- 5.05 Maid Marian and her Merry Men. Part four of Tony Robinson's comedy drama serial. With Kate Longman and Wayne Morris (r) (8171688)
 5.35 Neighbours (r) (Ceefax) (s) (476350). Northern Ireland: Inside Us/
 Weather (911)
 6.00 Six O'Clock News with Peter Sissons and Moira Stuart. (Ceefax) Weather (911)
 6.30 Regional News Magazines (263). Northern Ireland: Neighbours 7.00 Women (s) (487843)
 7.35 Harry and the Hendersons. American family comedy series. (Ceefax) (s) (787824)
 8.00 In Sickness and in Health. Alf's new-found wealth, discovered behind Mrs Hollingberry's old wardrobe, brings luxury but also anxiety to Johnny Speight's crotchety OAP. He is concerned that he might meet his maker before he has spent it all, worse still, he might still be alive when the money runs out. Starring Warren Mitchell and Carmel McSharry. (Ceefax) (s) (8379)
 8.30 Caught in the Act. Home movie gaffes. (Ceefax) (s) (6094)
 9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Martin Lewis. (Ceefax) Regional news and weather (870911)
 9.55 Party Election Broadcast by the Green party (526756)
 10.00 Film: The Mighty Quinn (1989) starring Denzel Washington and James Fox. Meandering Jamaican-based mystery about a black police chief investigating the murder of a wealthy white man. Directed by Carl Schenkel. (Ceefax) (s) (829553). Northern Ireland: May Black (10.40) Sportsworld 11.10 Film: St. Elmo's Fire (11.30)
 11.35 Film: Maid Marian and the Merry Men (1984).
 CHOICE: Bill Edwards' comedy has ingredients that can hardly fail. The star is Dudley Moore, whom Edwards guided to his success in 10, and the plot is a well-crafted mixture of sexual liberation and classic confusion. Moore plays a television host who hates his work and wants to start a family. His wife Micki (Ann Reinking) is too involved in her law career to oblige. So Moore takes a mistress Maude (Amy Irving), gets her pregnant and prepares for a divorce. Then Micki announces that she is pregnant but Moore still marries Maude, leaving himself having to juggle two wives and two babies. Perhaps the result is not quite as funny as it should be. But Edwards, who made the Pink Panther films, is an experienced comedy director with an eye for a gag. Moore takes bigamy in his stride and the women give sparkling support. (Ceefax) (s) (303755). Northern Ireland: 12.55 Film: The Stranger Within (2.05-2.35 Hustings)
 1.30 On the Hustings (91916) 2.00 Weather (7308595)

BBC 2

- 6.45 Open University: Arts - What is Music? (3930911). Ends at 7.10
 8.00 Breakfast News (9120465)
 8.15 40 Minutes: The Happy Medium (r) (8280534)
 9.00 Daytime on 2. Educational programmes
 9.00 News and weather (7477139) followed by 2.05 Words and Pictures. Learning to read series (r) (5622494) 2.15 Weekend Outlook. A preview of the weekend's Open University programmes (r) (74754621)
 2.20 Sport on Friday introduced by Helen Rollason. Ice Skating: action from the world figure skating championships in the Oakland Coliseum, California, featuring the men's original programme and the pairs' free skating. The commentators are Alan Weeks, Barry Davies and Christopher Dean; Basketball: the Blue Circle All Stars Game, the traditional end of season game, held at the Granby Halls, Leicester. With commentary by Paul Dickenson and Bill Beswick. Includes News and weather at 3.00 and 3.50 (5142283)
 5.00 A Question of Sport introduced by David Coleman. The new team captain, John Parrott, is joined by Jeremy Guscott and Ally McGivern while Bill Beaumont welcomes Stephen Hendry and Steve Beakley (r) (Ceefax) (s) (1927)
 5.30 Top Gear. With an appreciation of the MGB and news of the Vauxhall Sport Rally (r) (640)
 6.00 Thunderbirds. Gerry Anderson's classic puppet adventure series. (Ceefax) (26908)
 6.50 Dr Who. Episode four of a six-part adventure, The Sea Devils, starring Jon Pertwee (r) (Ceefax) (s) (738263)
 7.15 100 Per Cent. Teenage magazine series. This week's edition includes young lesbians and gay men talking about their sexuality (s) (113755)
 8.00 Public Eye: Crime - Can They Crack It? Does anyone have policies capable of beating rising crime figures? Jenny Cuffy reports. With contributions from Kenneth Baker, Roy Hattersley and Robert MacLennan (9621)



Down to earth advice: Liz Rigby and Geoff Hamilton (8.30pm)

- 8.30 Gardeners' World. Geoff Hamilton invites Ipswich people to comment on Sungold, claimed to be an outstanding new tomato; and three Northamptonshire gardeners are asked how they feel now that their private plots are open to public scrutiny, courtesy of the Yellow Book Scheme (98483)
 9.00 Victoria Wood is Seen on TV. Another episode from the series first seen in 1986 in which the comedienne is joined by Sally Walters, Patricia Routledge, Celia Imrie, Duncan Preston and Susie Blake (r) (4668)
 9.30 Armistead Maupin is a Man I Dreamt Up. CHOICE: Armistead Maupin is often told his name is so unlikely that it must be an anagram, especially as the letter can be juggled to make "is a man I dreamt up". But the name is real and so is the man, a San Francisco-based writer whose short stories, which first appeared in a newspaper column, give a quirky humorous view of life in the city. Kate Maynell's film seeks to demonstrate that the line between Maupin and fiction is thin one as it tracks down an equivalent to Maupin's real life. She finds him and begins an apprenticeship to his characters. As well as writing a story-teller, Maupin is a campaigner for gay rights. The two main activists have become intertwined. His paper was unhappy at gayes appearing in the column. It relented after he agreed that they should not comprise more than 30 per cent of the cast. (15534)
 10.30 Party Election Broadcast by the Green party (599843)
 10.35 Newsnight with Peter Snow (319355)
 11.30 What the Papers Say presented by John Sweeney of The Observer (513805)
 11.45 Weather (784602)
 11.50 Film: Piravi (1988). Handsome but slow-moving Indian drama, based on a true incident about an elderly father's search for his student son who went missing during the political turmoil of the 1970s. Starring Premji and Archana and directed by Shaji. (Subtitled) (567027). Ends at 1.40am

ITV

- 6.00 TV-am (3098843)
 6.25 Lucky Laddies. Word association game show hosted by Lennie Bennett (s) (9633379) 6.55 Thames News (6598465)
 10.00 The Time ... There the Place ... John Stapleton chairs a topical discussion (6047643)
 10.40 This Morning. Magazine series presented by John Finnigan and Richard Madeley. Today's edition includes a film and television preview; advice on fashion sense; and a lesson in French with comedienne Lisa Maxwell and actor Philip Franks (4809060)
 12.10 Rainbow. Pre-school entertainment (r) (9719718)
 12.30 ITN Lunchtime News with Nicholas Owen and Sonia Ruusola. (Oracle) Weather (7181060) 1.10 Thames News (77551263)
 1.20 Home and Away. Australian family drama. (Oracle) (s) (63131379) 1.50 A Country Practice. Medical drama set in rural Australia (96364379)
 2.20 Highway to Heaven. Michael Landon stars as the apprentice angel on Earth to earn his wings. In this episode he has to make a Scrooge-like character see the error of his ways. With guest star Leslie Nielsen (7650606)
 5.15 ITN News headlines (3090553) 5.20 Themes News headlines (3097485) 5.25 The Young Doctors. Drama series set in an Australian city hospital (2678718)
 5.35 Cartoon featuring Sylvester the cat (5002114) 4.00 Talespin. Cartoon adventures (s) (5092253) 4.25 Trucks. Animation based on the book by Terry Pratchett (s) (5588453) 4.40 Spatz. Comedy drama series set in a fast-food restaurant (3197699)
 5.50 10 Home and Away (r) (Oracle) Weather (8165008)
 5.40 Early Evening News with John Suchet. (Oracle) Weather (623331)
 5.55 8 O'Clock Live presented by Frank Bough. He is joined by Cilla Black who talks about her role in the nationwide charity campaign featured in Tracing Places at 8.00pm (406398)
 6.00 Party Election Broadcast by the Green party (599843)
 7.00 The Help Squad. Michael Parkinson and his team attempt to solve viewers' problems (7027)
 7.30 Coronation Street. (Oracle) (843)



Swapping identities: Cilla Black with Hale and Pace (8.00pm)

- 8.00 Trading Places. Cilla Black presents a review of the day's happenings when people have been changing places with celebrities as part of a nationwide campaign to raise money for the breast cancer research charity Breakthrough (9686607)
 9.00 Growing Rich. Penultimate episode of Fay Weldon's delicious story about three East Anglian girls looking for fortune and fulfillment. (Oracle) (s) (7008)
 10.00 News with Alistair Stewart and Carol Barnes. (Oracle) Weather (848793) 10.35 LWT News and weather (835244)
 10.40 The London Programme. Trevor Phillips introduces the second election special focusing on the marginal seats in London and the South-east (269573)
 11.15 Last Nightingale produced by Anastasia Cooke and Samantha Norman. Phone-in dating show with a resident psychic (111902)
 1.05 The Jersey Radio Show. Another clutch of intrepid phone-iners brave the sharp tongue of the acerbic chat show host (s) (2114693)
 2.10 American Gladiators. Tests of strength and ingenuity (s) (4722799)
 3.10 Cinema Attractions. News from the American movie scene (3743429)
 4.35 Raw Power. Rock videos (611517)
 4.35 The American Match. Highlights from the new World League American Football season, focusing on the progress of the London Monarchs (8940423)
 5.05 Out of Limits. Sportspeople push themselves to the limit (2250428)
 5.30 ITN Morning News with Tim Nelson (46492423). Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 Channel 4 Daily (3096485)
 6.25 Schools (5448315)
 12.00 Noah's Ark. Spanish documentary series on the nature and environment of Venezuela (18008)
 12.30 Business Daily. The latest news and analysis from the world's money markets (56114)
 1.00 Sesame Street. Entertaining early-learning series. The guest is actor Robin Williams (516263)
 2.00 Love Lucy (b/w). Vintage American domestic comedy series starring the scatterbrained Lucille Ball (4565)
 2.30 Film: Four's a Crowd (1938, b/w). The Errol Flynn season continues with a agreeable comedy in which he plays a press agent who falls for the daughter of the millionaire he has been hired to promote. Directed by Michael Curtiz (1743843)
 4.15 Countdown. The final of the quick-fire words and numbers game, presented by Richard Whiteley (3393058)
 5.00 Cutting Edge: "P" Company. A repeat of Monday's documentary following the fortunes of 38 hopefuls attempting to pass the grueling course to join the parachute regiment (7840)
 6.00 Happy Days. Nostalgic American high school comedy series set in 1950s Milwaukee, starring Henry Winkler. (Teletext) (621)
 6.30 Tonight with Jonathan Ross. Among tonight's guests is Jools Holland (s) (973)
 7.00 Channel 4 News with Jon Snow and Fiona Murch. Includes 100 floating voters on their reaction to party election broadcasts (Teletext) Weather (7355851)
 7.50 Voters. Three voters on the Eastbourne seafront discuss what they see as important general election issues (214553)
 8.00 Brookside. Soap set in a suburban Merseyside close (Teletext) (s) (1089)



To the crumbling manor born: the Russell family (8.30pm)

- 8.30 Short Stories: The Inheritance. CHOICE: Another watchable entry in the documentary slot for new directors visits a family out of joint in the Irish Republic. The Russells are remnants of the Anglo-Irish landed gentry, trying to maintain a crumbling estate outside Cork and unable to grasp that they are backing a hopeless cause. Geoffrey Russell, a charismatic and resourceful man, died five years ago leaving a widow and three sons. None has inherited his business flair or drive. None has any clear idea of what to do, selling up is unthinkable and meanwhile the once handsome house is falling into decay because the family cannot afford repairs. Domine, the son, has put it, they should break out like a pest (52244)
 9.00 Choice. More bar-room comedy from the staff and regulars of the celebrated Boston watering hole. (Teletext) (s) (6737)
 9.30 Flowering Passions. Anne Povard visits cottage gardens in Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire (36350)
 10.00 Roseanne. Another collection of snappy one-liners from Roseanne Arnold and John Goodman. (Teletext) (s) (17737)
 10.30 Whose Line Is It Anyway? Improvised comedy hosted by Clive Anderson (24845)
 11.00 Trading Places. Gareth Hale and Norman Pace change places with Cilla Black in support of the campaign for the breast cancer research charity Breakthrough (94008)
 12.00 Midnight Special. Sheena McDonald with the latest news from the hustings. Includes a party political broadcast on behalf of the Green party (64868)
 2.00am Tonight with Jonathan Ross (r) (s) (44515). Ends at 2.30

SATELLITE

- SKY NEWS**
 Vis the Astra and Marcopolo satellites. News on the hour.
 6.00am Sunrise (228743) 7.30 The Conference (7610083) 10.00 News and Weather (5611415, 10.20) 11.30 Weather (5611415, 10.20)
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